

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

XXVII, No. 34

FRIDAY, August 25, 1961

United States and Canada 1 year \$3.00; 2 years \$5.00; 3 years \$7.00  
Foreign 1 year \$4.50; 2 years \$8.00; 3 years \$11.00

## How to Trust Christ

By Three Great Scotch Preachers

Thomas Chalmers, 1760-1847  
Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889  
James Denny 1856-1917

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."—John 5:24.

"To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."—Rom. 4:5.

Three great men of God, all of the Free Church of Scotland, (Presbyterian) have helped to make clear the simplicity of trusting Christ for salvation, simply leaving one's case to the dear Lord Jesus who died for sinners.

### Faith Simply Accepts Salvation Already Offered

Chalmers, the great Scotch preacher, in a letter to a friend, made plain what, believing on Christ means:

I must say that I never had so close and satisfactory a view of the gospel salvation as when I have been led to contemplate it in the light of a simple offer on the one side, and a simple acceptance on the other. It is just saying to one and all of us, There is forgiveness through the blood of my Son; Take it, and whoever believes the reality of the offer takes it...

We are apt to stagger at the greatness of the unmerited offer and cannot attach faith to it till we have made up some title of our own. This leads to two mischievous consequences: It keeps alive the presumption of one class who will still be thinking that it is something in themselves and of themselves which confers upon them a right of salvation; and it confirms the melancholy of another class, who look into their own hearts and their own lives, and find that they cannot make out a shadow of a title to the divine favor. The error of both lies in their looking to themselves when they should be looking to the Saviour. "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth" (Isa. 45:22).

The Son of man was so lifted up that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:14, 15). It is your part simply to lay hold of the proffered boon. You are invited to do so; and you are entreated to do so; nay, what is more, you are commanded to do so.

It is true, you are unworthy, and without holiness no man can see God; but be not afraid, only believe. You cannot get holiness of yourself, but Christ has undertaken to provide it for you. It is one of those spiritual blessings of which He has the dispensation,

and which He has promised to all who believe in Him. God has promised that with His Son He will freely give you all things (Rom. 8:32); that He will walk in you and dwell in you (II Cor. 6:16); that He will purify your heart by faith (Acts 15:9); that He will put His law in your mind and write it in your heart (Heb. 8:10).

These are the effects of your believing in Christ, and not the services by which you become entitled to believe in Him. Make a clear outset in the business, and understand that your first step is simply confiding acceptance of an offer that is most free, most frank, most generous, and most unconditional.

If I were to come as an accredited agent from the upper

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## Denominational Bosses Steal Another Church

Majority Loses Use of Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church Building

By Evangelist Walt Handford, Assistant Editor

On June 30 the Superior Court of Durham County, North Carolina, issued a restraining order forbidding the overwhelming majority of the members of the Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church from using the buildings or equipment of the church. The court decision came as a surprise since Baptists have historically held to a congregational form of church government where the majority rules. In this case a small minority of about seventy-five has been counted the true congregation by the court, and the vast majority of approximately five hundred have had to find other facilities. The decision is being appealed to the State Supreme Court and we trust the outcome will be reversed.

### Background of the Court Action

The Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church is the largest in the western North Carolina conference. Ronald Creech, the unusually faithful and Spirit-filled pastor, has led the church in an aggressive soul-winning program. Even during the months of problem over the court fight, the church has had people saved nearly every Sunday. Brother Creech also takes a bold and vigorous stand against modernism and worldliness. He is a gracious, spiritually-minded preacher with a fine family.

The question naturally comes, How did a fine pastor and his best soul-winning people get put out of their church property? Several things led to it.

First, Brother Creech was host pastor for a Sword of the Lord Conference on Revival and Soul

Dear Catholic Friend:

Your letter is before me, and prayerfully I take time to answer it. The truth of God is so holy that I must deal very reverently with it. And the truth has been so perverted by Roman dogma and tradition, that the truth will not be palatable to you, I fear. Whether you will listen to it, whether your heart is open at all to the facts, I do not know. But in the blessed Word of God, I John 4:6 says: "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." If in the heart you know Christ as Saviour, and if God's Spirit dwells in you, then God's Spirit will bear witness to you of the truth. And if there is no such witness, then

I will conclude, of course, that you are in spiritual darkness. For we are told: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

Note I do not say that if you do not agree with me in every detail, you are not saved, you are not a child of God. But I speak of the truth as it is in the Word of God, simple and plain, on major matters. If your heart is not open to principal truth from the Word of God, then the Spirit of God is not abiding in you and you will go on in your blindness. I will grieve about that if you do. But I hope that there is in you a love for Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit of God so that your heart will answer honestly to the Scriptures. If it does not, then at least I have done my duty.

### I. The Roman Church Has Brought Upon Itself the Curse of Revelation 22:18, 19, by Adding to the Scripture

Unbelieving men sometimes take from the Word of God, minimize parts of it, say it is not true and is not binding. The Roman Church and some others have the same kind of sin, in that they take the traditions of men, the decrees and doctrines of men, and add them to what the Bible says, thus often nullifying parts of the Bible. And to those who do so, God plainly says: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18). The statement in the Bible is simple. Honest people can understand it. To try to evade the meaning of

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## Ministers Speak

By Viola Walden  
Assistant to the Editor

A musician always knows his sharpest criticism will come from other musicians. Any skilled worker soon learns to judge his work not by the comments of people who do not understand it, but by those who are themselves skilled in the same lines.

So we feel that the acid test of THE SWORD OF THE LORD is the reception accorded it by ministers and missionaries and other Christian workers. Therefore it is with a glow of pride and well-being that we quote some of the nice letters we have had from many of the preachers who receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD each week.

A pastor of a small Baptist church sends a gift to the SWORD OF THE LORD and says, "I preached your sermon 'When God's Patience Wears Out,' at the close of a revival ten days ago and six young people were saved and about fifteen or twenty came for re-dedication." This good brother lives in Cumberland, North Carolina.

From "down under" comes a blessed word from Sentoma Jagernauth of Trinidad, West Indies, in which our brother relates: "It was in the early part of 1951 or 1952 that your staff sent me a copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD and I with the first copy took Christ as my Saviour and continued in the things of God. Since then I felt that I should become a gospel preacher because there were no gospel preachers around here, but there was no opportunity of being helped."

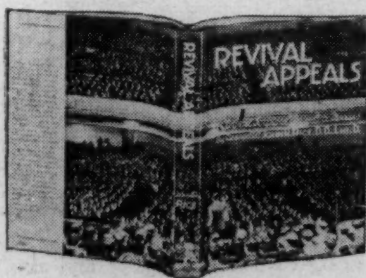
In 1959 our brother came to the United States for seven months where he was ordained and sent back to his homeland as a missionary. At the beginning of this

year a church was organized and Mr. Jagernauth pastors this assembly.

### Called to Mission Field Through Sermon in Sword

"If you have a copy of your sermon 'What It Costs to Be a Good Christian' which appeared in THE SWORD OF THE LORD back in 1945, I shall appreciate this very much.

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SWORD OF THE LORD  
Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois



Rev. Walter Handford

Winning in which a number of preachers like Dr. Rice, Jack Hyles, Tom Malone, Lee Roberson, and Bob Jones took part. Other preachers who are not denominationally affiliated with Free Will Baptists have been invited to speak in the Edgemont Church. Some state Free Will Baptist leaders criticized Brother Creech for having these independent men in the pulpit while not inviting some of the state leaders to preach in the church.

A second reason for the court action against the Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church majority was Brother Creech's active opposition to the worldliness and

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Two signed decision slips came in today from the back of the little booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" I prayed last night for some of those. I have not yet gotten to read today's mail to know whether there are other letters from people telling that they have been saved through our literature. There are some nearly every day, praise the Lord. (Later: One more decision in today's mail from my sermon, "How a Lost Sheep Got Home.")

### Come Sing to Millions! Join Radio Choir

The "Voice of Revival" choir is to be reorganized and expanded for fall and winter broadcasts. We invite good Christians who sing (within a radius of 100 miles), to join this radio choir and spend two evenings each month in rehearsing and in making the recordings for the broadcast. Many gospel singers in this Chicago-Wheaton area could drive to our big recording studio in Glen Ellyn and spend two and a half hours two different times a month at a regularly agreed-upon time.

Millions of people can hear these broadcasts on nearly forty stations over America. The best is none too good for God. And just as this preacher gives his time free and as others in the radio choir do, you could make this donation of time and talent singing to the glory of God. It will be a wonderful experience under a skilled director, and with very sweet fellowship with spiritual Christians. Those who are interested please write to John R. Rice, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

We also invite the entire choirs of churches in this area to consider coming as our guests, singing with our radio choir on one program or more. We would be glad to furnish the choir the music we will be using ahead of time so they can practice. They could be featured guests, joining in the "Voice of Revival" choir on some particular Sunday broadcast. The choir leaders who would like to bring their choirs for one certain broadcast or more to join the

What you would seem to be, be really.

—Benjamin Franklin



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United States and Canada subscription rates: \$3.00 per year, \$5.00 for two years, \$7.00 for three years; Foreign countries \$4.50 per year, \$8.00 for two years, \$11.00 for three years.

Published every Friday of each week.

Please send all correspondence and address changes to: The Sword of the Lord Editorial and Executive office at 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois. Office of Publication: 131 West 6th St., Newton, Kansas. Second-class postage paid at Newton, Kansas.

Postmasters: Please send Form 3579 to The Sword of the Lord, 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois

"Voice of Revival" choir please write me.

### New Book by the Editor "The Golden Path to Successful Personal Soul Winning"

God seemed to lead me to adopt two verses from the Bible as lifetime mottoes. Those verses are Psalm 126:6, on soul winning; and Luke 11:13, on praying for the power of the Holy Spirit. And in my preaching ministry for these years there have been two great emphases, that is, soul winning and prayer. The big book, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*, has had an amazing circulation of 180,000 printed in English besides editions in five or six other languages.

Now, by God's blessings, I have at last completed a big book on soul winning to match the book on prayer. This book is now being set in type. It will be ready, God willing, early in October. There will be something over three hundred pages. It will sell for \$3.00 a copy, but those who order it now can have it at a prepublication price of \$2.35 plus 15c for handling and postage. I believe these fifteen chapters in this big book will be used of God to stir thousands to soul winning and show them how. May God smile upon it! Better get your copy now at the prepublication price. Mail your order and the book will be sent to you as soon as it is off the press—sometime in October.

### Some City-Wide Campaigns Coming Up; Please Pray

We rejoice in the opening of many revival opportunities. Along with constant pressure for conferences on revival and soul winning, we are getting many invitations for revivals. I cannot accept all the invitations, but I am trying to accept some united or co-operative campaigns as I can.

October 12-27 I will be in two and a half weeks of a city-wide campaign in Phoenix, Arizona, sponsored by the Independent Ministerial Association and their churches. This will follow a great conference on revival and soul winning October 8-11 where Dr. Lee Roberson, Dr. Jack Hyles and I will speak. We expect a big tent, big crowds and blessed results by the power of God.

The Independent Evangelical Ministers' Association of Twin Falls, Idaho, has invited me to a union campaign in the fall or spring. I think because of my dates we may have to wait until next spring. I have offered them a date then.

At Peoria, Illinois, I am invited to a revival campaign and the good pastor tells me that there are a dozen other churches that would co-operate if proper plans can be made. The date is not yet set.

I beg friends of THE SWORD OF

THE LORD to pray for these revival efforts. Pray that God will fill me with the Spirit, that He will give wisdom, that He will keep me from accepting any dates where I ought not to go. And I hope my brethren will forgive me where I cannot accept all the invitations, and where possible will get others to unite in an invitation for a larger conference or revival than one church can provide.

### August Sale; Stock Up for Christmas Gifts

In midsummer it is important to us to keep our workers busy. Thus we offer a special reduction of prices on our books during the August sale. Now you can save 20%, one-fifth of the regular retail price, on all Sword of the Lord books and pamphlets as advertised from time to time in THE SWORD during August. Now is a good time to stock up on books that you want for your own library, books you will want for wedding presents, anniversary gifts, hostess gifts, and particularly for Christmas.

I suggest that you specially notice the book, *Revival Appeals*, sixteen sermons by this editor. It has been out of print for some four years. We are glad to see it beautifully reprinted and you can have it for only \$2.00 during the August sale, the regular price is \$2.50.

We have also reprinted, *Watching Jesus Die*, ten moving sermons on the crucifixion of Christ. Regularly \$3.00, this beautiful book may be yours now for only \$2.40. Don't forget the postage and handling charge; 15c the minimum or 5% of the cost.

Many ought to plan now to get extra copies of the book, *Home: Courtship, Marriage and Children*. A big bargain for \$3.00, 381 pages, but during August sale only \$2.40. Dr. Philip E. Howard, long editor of the *Sunday School Times*, bought five copies for his five children. Many preachers give copies to every couple they marry. It is a wonderful Christmas gift, hostess gift, anniversary gift. Others will want to give the book, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*, 328 pages, regular price \$3.00, but August sale price, \$2.40.

We think many Christians ought to plan to give the beautiful little booklet, *The Angel's Christmas Message*, instead of Christmas cards. It carries the Christmas message, it warms the heart and it is different. We have an envelope included with each copy, 30c each, 7 for \$2.00 or 20 for \$5.00, plus 5% for postage and handling.

Please take advantage of our August sale. You will help us and help yourself in this month of savings.

### Bible Believers, Have You Proved It?

When Jesus was on trial, Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple, and Nicodemus all the years had never told of the time that he went to Jesus by night and heard the Gospel. When Jesus healed ten lepers, only one of them returned to give Him thanks. When the aged Paul was in prison he wrote sadly, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." And when Paul was tried for his life, nobody stood by him. Saved people sometimes are ungrateful and disloyal.

Read the statement of faith and principles on the front page of every issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Do you believe what we believe? Do you believe in Christians who stand up for Christ and the Bible? Do you believe in the emphasis on old-fashioned Bible preaching, on revivals, soul winning, separated lives? If you are for THE SWORD OF THE LORD and the great fundamental principles of the Bible for which we stand, then you ought to prove it.

I suggest that you prove your stand for the fundamentals of the faith by sending subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Why not adopt for yourself a quota? We suggest 25 or more. Tell us that you will undertake to send a certain number of subscriptions and we will give you the club rate of \$2.00 per year for each subscription in the United States and Canada or to men in the armed services.

One good pastor sends in two subscriptions each month until the



By Jessie Rice Sandberg

### Anybody Hungry?

All summer long I have been enjoying the luxury of sitting down to meals I didn't help prepare, and then leaving the dishes for someone else to wash! That has been one of the pleasant aspects of spending the summer working with boys and girls at a Christian camp.

Contrary to the general reputation of camp food, ours has been delicious and plentiful. The corn-on-the-cob, fresh garden tomatoes, hot homemade rolls with butter—all have been wonderful. It is amazing how one's appetite increases under the influence of exercise, fresh air and the sight of a hundred or so hungry boys and girls sitting down to dinner. Mrs. Freer, the cook, has a way of working magic with the breakfast pancakes and the Sunday fried chicken, and the crumb cake, too, but even the ordinary cold cereal and Kool-Aid (more commonly known in camp circles as "bug juice") tastes better when served in an atmosphere of laughter and fellowship and sunshine. Skinny, picky little boys and finicky little girls who won't touch a vegetable at home are sometimes seen at camp gobbling large quantities of canned peas and other commercially prepared vegetables. How many a mother who has sighed and worked over the poor eating habits of her Johnny or Jane would be delighted if she could see how well her children eat at camp.

Of course we work a little at helping the boys and girls to like good food. No matter how much extra money a child brings to camp, he is allowed to spend only a certain amount each day at the snack shack and only at certain specific hours. Younger boys and girls are required to taste a little of each item served in the dining hall whether they think they will like it or not. At the end of each meal every milk glass must be drained right to the bottom.

But aside from the good food and exercise and fresh air, the thing that really makes eating so much fun is that we do it together. The taste of the food is always improved by the laughter and the songs and jokes that always go with a camp meal. Even the worn-out custom of making some counselor skip around the dining hall to the tune of "The old gray mare; she ain't what she used to be, etc." makes mealtime more fun.

I have a great deal of sympathy for people who have to eat all their meals in solitude, or in the company of others who do not enjoy company while they eat. Having meals with people, even little people who often have to be reminded of their manners, must certainly be a great deal more enjoyable than eating alone, with no smiles, no laughter, no pleasant conversation. The best food in the

resident families of his church will be taken care of. Many who read this ought to do the same.

Will you take a club of subscriptions and undertake to send them in, two or three at a time perhaps, until you complete your quota? Can you do it in the remainder of 1961? Please tell us if you will accept a quota and we will then give you the right to send them at the rock-bottom club rate of \$2.00 a year with no premiums, no commission and no billing, but for cash subscriptions.

Others ought to prove their friendship by giving each month to the radio fund, or to the Free Literature Fund which God has used to win souls around the world.

If you are a fundamental Bible believer, if you want us to defend the faith and keep the revival fires stirring, then we beg you to back us up with subscriptions and gifts and prayers.

world served on fine china with snowy linen, cut flowers and candlelight, can never be adequate substitute for the joy of happy company at a table of common food.

Occasionally one hears a person claim that he has no need for church attendance or frequent fellowship with other Christians. Such a person usually declares that he can worship God better alone in the beauty of nature or at home while reading or listening to the radio privately, etc., etc. Actually, the spiritual appetite, like the physical appetite, is whetted by the fellowship of others who are hungry. Even carnal Christians, whose tastes have been jaded by a frequent indulgence in the sweets of worldliness, can cultivate a craving for the Living Bread when they see it eaten and enjoyed by hungry-hearted people.

The reverse is true, as well. Christians who think they are so strong that they do not need the constant encouragement and blessing of fellowship with others who love, the Lord soon find that they no longer hunger for spiritual food and spiritual fellowship. They become puny, sickly Christians without any appetite for the precious Bread of Life.

Hungry, anyone? Let's eat together!

## Spurgeon's Funeral

At Spurgeon's funeral, Pastor A. G. Brown said—

"Beloved President, faithful Pastor, Prince of Preachers, Brother Beloved, Dear Spurgeon — We bid thee not 'farewell,' but only for a little while 'good-night.' Thou shalt rise soon, at the first dawn of the resurrection day of the redeemed. Yet is not the 'good-night' ours to bid, but thine. It is we who linger in the darkness; thou art in God's own light. Our night, too, shall soon be past, and with it all our weeping. Then, with thine, our songs shall greet the morning of a day that knows no cloud nor close, for there is no night there."

"Hard Worker in the field, thy toil is ended! Straight has been the furrow thou hast ploughed. No looking back has marred thy course. Harvests have followed thy patient sowing, and Heaven is already rich with thine ingathered sheaves, and shall be still enriched through years yet lying in eternity."

"Champion of God, thy battle long and nobly fought is over! The sword, which clave to thine hand, has dropped at last; the palm branch takes its place. No longer does the helmet press thy brow, oft weary with its surging thoughts of battle; the victor's wreath from the Great Commander's hand has already proved thy full reward."

"Here, for a little while, shall rest thy precious dust. Then shall the Well-beloved come, and at His voice thou shalt spring from thy couch of earth, fashioned like unto His glorious body. Then spirit, soul, and body shall magnify thy Lord's redemption. Until then, beloved sleep! We praise God for thee; and, by the blood of the everlasting covenant, we hope and expect to praise God with thee, Amen."

God gives every bird food, but He does not throw it into the nest.—J. G. Holland

A S. S. teacher is late unless he's a half-hour early.



# Socialism Will Ruin America Poor Russians

By Evangelist John R. Rice

On this page we quote one editorial from the *Saturday Evening Post* and two from the *Chicago Daily Tribune*.

America is cursed with a plague of creeping socialism, otherwise called "the welfare state," "the New Deal," etc. President Franklin D. Roosevelt openly set out to "redistribute the wealth" as he said. That is, he set out to do by law what everyone knows is immoral if done by others. He set out to take away from people who earn money a larger proportion of their income and to give it to people who do not earn it. He set out to see that the man who works hard does not have any more money than the loafer. He set out to see that the good citizen does not profit by being a good citizen. He set out to violate the Bible law of sowing and reaping. Instead of having the wealth distributed according to what men earn, he set out to distribute according to the way the government wishes it to be, and to gain votes by that method.

That is the heart of the doctrine of Karl Marx, the father of socialism and communism. (The two are the same in essence. They hold exactly the same doctrines except that communism seeks to overthrow the government by violence, while socialism seeks to bring about exactly the same state by a slower means.) Karl Marx said, "From each according to his ability: to each according to his needs."

That is contrary to the clear Bible doctrine of free enterprise or capitalism, which made America great. Read this Bible doctrine of free enterprise, this doctrine that men should reap what they sow; that man should be paid according to their work and according to their merit.

1. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

2. "... This we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (II Thess. 3:10).

3. "The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich..." (I Sam. 2:7).

Spending other people's money is a great temptation. To buy the votes of labor or farmers, of those on relief, of Negroes, and of government job holders with the use of other people's money taken by excessive and unfair taxation is morally wrong. It is economically ruinous. It breaks down the character of those who thus are taught that government or society owes them a living. It develops bureaucrats who take away the liberties of the people. It tends toward eventual dictatorship. It is

a road that ends where Russia already is.

To keep going in debt, to make debts we think we cannot pay, to get people accustomed to a life of spending beyond our means, is morally wrong nationally as it is for individuals. Here we print important editorials. Christians must answer to God for the government's sins for which they are responsible. Preachers who will not preach against governmental immorality will not preach against personal immorality among their members. Preachers who do not

teach their people to vote for honesty in government will not teach the people to pay honest debts privately. Preachers who are not against Karl Marx in the pulpit will never avail much against the infidelity, the evolutionary teaching, the anti-biblical viewpoint which Karl Marx promoted.

The Bible is against socialism and communism. Those who are intelligently for socialism and communism are not Christians at all. Those who are, through ignorance, for socialism, are ignorant Christians, if Christians at all, not aware of the clear teaching of the Bible.

## Socialistic Welfare Program Immoral, Leads to Bankruptcy

Creeping socialism in America destroys character of the people, develops loafers at the expense of honest taxpayers and workers, subsidizes illegitimacy and leads toward bankruptcy in city, state, and national governments. Beware of the "New Deal" idea of the Kennedy administration, of the C. I. O. labor leaders and modernistic religious leaders.

In the *Saturday Evening Post* of August 5 is the following editorial.

### NOW IT'S "ILLEGAL" FOR A CITY TO CURB WELFARE ABUSES

When the city manager of Newburgh, New York, announced that the rules governing relief and welfare were to be revised downward, he got what he probably expected: furious condemnation by the "Best People." Social workers went after him hammer and tongs. *The New York Times*, picking on Newburgh's proposal to limit the subsidy on illegitimate children to one per family, called the Newburgh proposal a return to the Dark Ages. This, in the *Times*' opinion, was "the most brutal of several dark-age rules laid down."

The requirement that able-bodied men on relief should be expected to put in some time working for the city did not receive quite such a beating, but the welfare authorities in Albany promptly summoned Manager Joseph M. Mitchell to come up and explain why his plan was not illegal and why Newburgh ought not to be cut off from state relief funds at once. Needless to say, the Newburgh

plan was promptly declared "illegal" and might even deprive the whole state of its Federal relief stipend! The idea seems to be that only bureaucrats in Washington or Albany are humane enough to have an opinion.

That was the first wave. The second wave in the Battle of Newburgh was in the nature of a counterattack. Even the *Times* reported that country-wide response to the news was almost 100 per cent favorable to the Newburgh idea. It was recalled that several states already have similar plans, among them Oregon and Georgia, whose Governor—now Senator—Herman Talmadge once enunciated the principle that "whereas one illegitimate child might be evidence of an honest mistake, two or more seemed to indicate a habit that should not be encouraged at public expense."

As to the "Dark Ages" ruling on pensions for illegitimate children, it is curious that none of the comment included the suggestion that some effort might be made to round up the evasive father and shake something out of him before passing the responsibility for his get along to the community. After all, when a man who has been misguided enough to marry and have children deserts the same, the state goes to fabulous lengths to track him down and compel him to support his family. But the carefree fellow who fathers his kind without troubling a minister or a justice of the peace to make it official is left undisturbed. To many this doesn't seem entirely fair!

Anyway the situation is one that could bankrupt a community like Newburgh, or even larger metropolises, unless it is taken in hand. Newburgh spends a third of its budget—\$983,000—on relief for about 1,400 people. According to *Newsday*, a Long Island newspaper, New York City spends \$41,000,000 for the care of 54,000 illegitimate children whose parents might have been more careful, or at least produced their

der social security would be considered by many as a right, paid for in advance, there to be utilized. There would be no effective limit to the demand.

The stampede in turn would inevitably lead thru constantly mounting costs to government organization of hospital admission committees, government propounded rules for what ailments could or could not be treated, and a whole new bureaucracy to supervise patients, physicians, and hospitals participating in the program. In other words, it would inevitably lead to the socialized medicine which do-gooders so hotly deny could result from Kennedy's program.

Kennedy's lieutenants place the program's costs in its first year at 658 million dollars, and in its second year at more than 1 billion. But other experts scoff at the estimates as wishful thinking.

Colorado's fiasco proves the fallacy of government entrance into this field. The House committee, and Congress as a whole, should shelve the whole matter now, and not even consider heaping this new burden upon the already overloaded taxpayer.

In the *Chicago Tribune* for August 2, 1961, was the following editorial, showing how poor and shabby is life under socialism or communism, as compared with the prosperity which we have, with freedom, under our American, free enterprise, or capitalist system.

## BEHIND THE PROMISES

The new program of the Soviet Communist Party obviously was intended as a glowing forecast of what Russia hopes to achieve over the next two decades. But the 50,000 words unintentionally tell quite another story—a story of misery, endless shortages, and grueling toil which are the lot of the average Russian today and, even the program admits, will be his lot for years to come.

From the book-sized program, we present some of the promises which, because they are boastful pledges for the future, tell the story of the present:

The program asserts that in the plan's second decade [1971-80] "every family, including newlyweds, will have a comfortable flat conforming to the requirements of hygiene and cultured living"—in other words, with plumbing. Log huts of the peasants will be replaced, or at least rebuilt, in the same decade.

The program says, "Women must be given relatively lighter and yet sufficiently well paid jobs." This presumably means they no longer will be compelled to labor as bricklayers, street sweepers, and even miners.

Within the first decade, the program insists, "the demand of all sections of the population for high quality consumer goods [clothing, footwear, comfortable furniture, household appliances] will be amply satisfied." It adds: "Production of motorcars for the population will be considerably extended." That is, today only the privileged few in the supposedly classless society enjoy these amenities.

Within the same decade, the plan boasts, free secondary education will be available to everyone, schools where children are boarded will become free, and there

brood elsewhere, had the welfare rules in that city been somewhat stricter. One of the announced purposes of the Newburgh plan is to discourage "immigration" by those who are attracted to Newburgh as a soft touch for, among others, unmarried mothers, actual and putative. Surely a community should have some defense against Bankruptcy by Bastardy.

—*Saturday Evening Post*

will be free homes for the aged, and free medical care for all. Today, Russians pay for the books their children use in schools, pay to keep children in institutions while parents work, pay for care of the aged, and pay for medicines and hospital care.

In 1961-70, the plan promises, good shopping facilities will be arranged thruout the country, and a network of modern roads will be built. The "entire population will be able to satisfy to the full its need" for varied foods, because production of meat, fats, and dairy goods as well as fruits and vegetables "will rise substantially."

Of course, the party's grandiose pledges are hedged with loopholes, like a contract drawn by a shifty lawyer. The fine print says: "The aggravation of the international situation and the resulting necessary increase of expenditure on defense may prevent the realization of the plan for the upsurge of the well-being of the soviet people."

We have presented some of the main promises of the program. Now, we ask a question. What would be the reaction of Americans if, say tomorrow, somebody got to his feet in Washington and promised the people of this nation that in 20 years they all could have individual family housing with plumbing, that consumer goods from clothing to motorcars would become available in the stores within 10 years, that free high school educations would become available to everyone, that good shopping facilities and highways would be built thruout the nation, and that enough food of all kinds would go on sale?

The people would think, rightly, that the orator was out of his head. The United States has had all these and much more for so many years that our people regard the makings of the soviet utopia as a rather poor minimum standard of living.

## Evangelist Available

Our dear friend, Evangelist Joseph T. Larson, a Baptist evangelist for thirty years, a useful and trusted man of God and friend of THE SWORD OF THE LORD has some dates open in October and November. Pastors may write Evangelist Joseph T. Larson, 4203 Alcott Street, Denver 11, Colorado.



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## Socialistic Medical Care for the Aged a Complete Failure

(In the *Chicago Daily Tribune* for July 31, is the following important editorial.)

### COLORADO LESSON

The House committee considering President Kennedy's medical care program for the nation's aged might well travel out to Colorado for a firsthand look at the disaster which has overtaken that state's pilot experiment in the field.

Colorado's "medicare" system, covering the one-third of its aged persons who receive state pensions, and financed by a 10-million-dollar a-year draw on state revenues, is in deep trouble financially. A disillusioned legislature has refused to bail it out with additional money; so benefits have been curtailed sharply and hedged with new rules.

Hospital stays have been cut from 21 days to 18, with a cut to 15 coming. Hospital admission committees have been organized, and pensioners will have to fit into their formalized state-wide definitions of what constitutes critical or serious cases to get thru the doors.

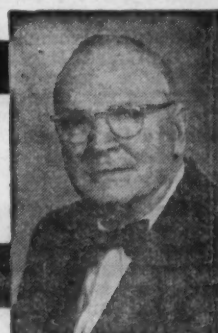
The reasons for disaster are simple. The eligible saw what

seemed to be something for nothing and took advantage of it. Colorado hospital admissions jumped to 446 per 1,000 population a year, against 121 per 1,000 for the nation. It is admitted that pensioners shopped for physicians who would put them where things were free—in a hospital.

Colorado's failure, with a program covering only 52,000 persons, demonstrates the basic unsoundness of President Kennedy's vastly greater proposal, scheduled for legislative action next year, which would provide much larger and more costly benefits to 14,500,000 persons thru expanded social security taxes.

It is certain that the President's plan would lead to the same "something for nothing" stampede which occurred in Colorado. An Illinois physician spelled this out for the House committee in these words: "Terrific pressures would be placed upon physicians to admit patients whose actual needs may not require hospital care. Hospitals and institutional facilities would be strained to the fullest, and waiting lines would soon develop. Medical care provided un-

## Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



I have just read a letter from a dear friend whose nephew spent a year in another educational institution. It seems that this boy lined up with a worldly crowd and came out with his faith shattered; and his people were greatly concerned about him. This friend persuaded her nephew to come to Bob Jones University for a year, and he came here; and now she reports about the marvelous transformation in the boy's life. He is out doing Christian work this summer and is winning souls to Christ and standing true.

Bob Jones University has in the fields of its emphasis as high academic standards as any university in America. We are training Christian leaders for various walks of life, but the most important thing about Bob Jones University is this: It is sending out well-trained, consecrated, Bible-believing leaders at this time when there is religious apostasy in practically the whole

educational field, including many schools that were founded by Christian people and that are supposed to be Christian institutions. We are not going to compromise here at Bob Jones University. We are going to stand true. If you believe the Bible and stand for the fundamentals of the faith and want to see well-trained, Christian leaders go out in the world in various walks of life as Bible-believing witnesses for Jesus Christ, you can help this school that the Lord led us to found thirty-four years ago. You can pray for us. You can turn the right kind of students to the school, and you can invest some of the Lord's money in the work of the institution. Please let us hear from you. Thank you, and God bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER  
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY  
GREENVILLE, S. C.  
(Advertisement)



# Reprints of Two of Dr. Rice's Best Books

1. *Revival Appeals*, 16 revival sermons, 216 pages, out of print four years, now \$2.50.

2. *Watching Jesus Die*, ten sermons on the crucifixion, 246 pages, \$3.00.

We are glad to tell you that we have fine new printings of two of the editor's books being put in hard binding as this is written, and they will be delivered a week

before you get this issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

First, we are glad to announce that REVIVAL APPEALS is being reprinted. It has sixteen fervent, scriptural, evangelistic messages by the editor. Although it was one of the most popular books of sermons by the editor, several circumstances contrived to keep

it out of print for the last four years. It was just ready for reprinting when we sold our wholesale book business to Zondervan Publishing House. They did not get around to reprinting it and we were too busy. Three thousand copies just printed makes a total of twenty-two thousand copies altogether that will come from the presses.

The sermons are:

1. When God's Patience Wears Out
2. "Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out"
3. What Jesus Said About Hell
4. Will a Loving God Send a Sinner to Hell?
5. Hell—Keep Out!

6. Religious but Lost
7. A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved
8. The Criminal Who Wanted Another Chance
9. How a Lost Sheep Got Home
10. "Come Unto Me"
11. Facing the Pierced Jesus
12. "It Is Finished"
13. No Room for Jesus
14. Neglect, the Shortest Way to Hell
15. "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"
16. Missing God's Last Train for Heaven

There are 216 pages, the cover and end sheets bear pictures of

the great crowds in the city-wide campaigns in Cleveland and in Buffalo, New York, in the John R. Rice revivals. The sermons are among the most popular. The book is a real bargain for \$2.50.

"WATCHING JESUS DIE" ten moving messages on the crucifixion of Christ, has now been reprinted. The sermons are as follows:

1. "What Shall I Do Then With Jesus?"
2. "Behold the Man!"
3. Watching Jesus Die
4. The Seamless Robe
5. "Father, Forgive Them..."
6. "Come Down From the Cross"
7. The Criminal Who Wanted a Second Chance
8. "It Is Finished"
9. The Torn Veil
10. Facing the Pierced Jesus

There are 246 pages, lovely two-color hard binding, price \$3.00.

## August Sale Special Price!

If you order now, during August sale, you may have *Revival Appeals* at a special price of \$2.00 and *Watching Jesus Die* at \$2.40. Please add 15c per copy for postage and handling charges.

(A suggestion. Since the book *Revival Appeals* was first printed in war time, to conserve paper we had to put more type on a page and use smaller type. So there are sixteen full sermons in the 216 pages and this book is a special value.)

Order from THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

# Your Chance to Attend!

In September, October, and November, life-transforming conferences on revival and soul winning sponsored by the Sword of the Lord will be held in Indiana, Illinois, Texas, Ohio, Missouri, Arizona, Florida, and Alabama, plus a state-wide meeting in West Virginia.

Here is your chance to hear some of the greatest soul winners living, learn personal soul winning, learn how to pray, how to have the power of the Holy Spirit, how to have revivals.

## Dates Ahead:

Indianapolis, Indiana, September 3 and till noon on September 4, Berean Gospel Temple, Pastor Ford Porter.

Danville, Illinois, Monday afternoon and evening, September 4, at the men's camp, then a great conference on revival and soul winning at the First Baptist Church, September 5-8. Speakers include Dr. Jack Hyles, Dr. Tom Malone, Dr. John R. Rice, Evangelist Walt Handford. Rooms for out-of-town preachers.

Huntington, West Virginia, September 11 and 12, Dr. Rice speaking for the state-wide Conservative Baptist meeting.

Houston, Texas, September 13-15 at Central Baptist Church, Pasadena, in a conference sponsored by many churches and the Baptist institute. Other speakers.

Struthers, Ohio, September 18-24. Speakers include Dr. Lee Roberson, Dr. John R. Rice, Dr. Jack Hyles.

Phoenix, Arizona, October 8-12, speakers Dr. Jack Hyles, Dr. Lee Roberson, Dr. John R. Rice, followed by two and a half weeks of city-wide revival campaign led by Dr. Rice.

Jacksonville, Florida, Normandy Baptist Temple, October 29-November 1. Dr. Lee Roberson and Editor John R. Rice.

Panama City, Florida, with the Central Baptist Church and pastor, Hugh Pyle, November 2-5.

Decatur, Alabama, November 8-12, in Grace Baptist Church, a conference sponsored by twelve Conservative Baptist churches. Speakers Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., and Editor John R. Rice.

Great plans are being made at Danville, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Struthers, Ohio; Phoenix, Arizona, and Decatur, Alabama, for hundreds of out-of-town and out-of-state ministers. Pick your time and place for a great spiritual revival, for a deepening of the work of God in your heart, and new inflow of power! Thousands have found their lives transformed in such conferences. Do not miss your chance!

\*\*\*\*\*

# COME TO DANVILLE

Dr. F. W. McKnight, pastor of First Baptist Church, and the Sword of the Lord invite you to four great days September 5-8, Tuesday through Friday. Beds in private homes for out-of-town preachers.

Don't miss this personal heart-warming, this reviving of soul, this school of evangelism and soul winning at the First Baptist Church, Danville, Illinois, September 5-8.

## Spirit-Filled Speakers:

DR. JACK HYLES, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hammond, Indiana, one of the most remarkable soul winners I have ever known. He was used of God in building the Miller Road Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, from some forty members to over four thousand members in less than seven years. At Hammond, Indiana, the famous First Baptist Church, in his first year he baptized 556 converts. He has a remarkably effective, simple Bible method of training soul winners. His preaching is dynamic, Spirit-filled. To hear him in such a conference is a dynamic ever-to-be remembered spiritual experience.

DR. TOM MALONE, pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pontiac, Michigan, president of Midwestern Baptist Schools. God has blessed his soul-winning, Spirit-filled leadership in building from a tiny mission station into one of the great soul-winning churches of America. Dr. Malone is one of the half dozen best preachers in America in scriptural content, in Spirit-filled power, in warm, informal, charming style.

DR. LEE ROBERSON, pastor of the tremendous Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga (with over 15,000 members), president of the Tennessee Temple Schools. His church has baptized over a thousand converts each year for eleven years! He speaks with boldness, power, authority, one of a handful of most useful men in America.

DR. BOB JONES, SR., founder of Bob Jones University, famous evangelist who has won hundreds of thousands to Christ, over sixty years an evangelist. Colorful, large-hearted, mighty with rock-like character, spiritual wisdom, loving charm. Thank God he is still with us and active.

EVANGELIST WALT HANDFORD, vice-president of the Sword of the Lord Foundation and assistant editor, evangelist and pastor. Keen, spiritual, trusted, transforming.

DR. JOHN R. RICE, editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, author of books and pamphlets reaching over twenty million copies in over thirty languages, evangelist in great city-wide campaigns in Chicago, Buffalo, Cleveland, Seattle, Miami; heard on nationwide "Voice of Revival."



Jack Hyles



Bob Jones, Sr.



Lee Roberson



Tom Malone



John R. Rice



Walt Handford

## Sword Conference on Revival and Soul Winning Schedule of Services, First Baptist Church, Danville, Sept. 5-8, '61

Hour	Tues. Sept. 5	Wed. Sept. 6	Thurs. Sept. 7	Fri. Sept. 8
9:30 to 10:30	John R. Rice Why Pray?	Jack Hyles	Walt Handford Perils of the Ministry	John R. Rice Asking and Receiving
		15-Minute Intermission		
10:45 to 12:00	Jack Hyles	John R. Rice Filled With the Spirit	Tom Malone	Tom Malone
		Noon Recess		
2:00 p.m.	Jack Hyles 2-hour lesson, How to Win a Soul	Actual supervised house-to-house visitation	Tom Malone Shows how to take census—actual practice	Tom Malone Teaches how to separate, file, and use census results
		Supper Recess		
6:45 to 7:45 p.m.	John R. Rice Soul Winning Harvest White	Walt Handford The Bible-Balanced Ministry of Love and Rebuke	John R. Rice Getting Bread for Sinners	Tom Malone
		15-Minute Intermission		
8:00 p.m.	Jack Hyles	John R. Rice The Fall and Restoration of a Preacher	Tom Malone	John R. Rice Outside the Gate With Jesus

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## INCIDENTS

## Illustrations



By  
Evangelist Robert L. Sumner  
Contributing Editor

## Hollywood's Children

We have frequently commented in this column concerning the tragedy in the lives of the children of movieland's heroes and heroines. The latest incident has to do with Arthur Lake, who plays the part of Dagwood Bumstead in the movies. His 18-year-old son, Arthur P. Lake, Jr., was arrested the other day in Santa Monica, California, on suspicion of robbing a man of \$1.93 in a local park.

Lake admitted that he was guilty. Environment plays a prominent part in developing character in children, and whenever sin is glorified on every hand, it makes its indelible mark upon the soul of the child. When a child is trained right, he turns out right. By the same token, when a child is trained wrong, he turns out wrong.

## The Lord's Prayer in Verse

Mrs. N. E. Montgomery of Highland, Michigan, found a Civil War prayer while going through some old family papers in Charleston, South Carolina. She, in turn, sent a copy to Jane Schermerhorn, a columnist in the *Detroit News*, commenting that the original had been printed on lustrous satin and "was evidently prized by its owner whose name is unknown." It said:

"Thou to the mercy seat our souls dost gather,  
To do our duty unto Thee . . .

## OUR FATHER

"To whom all promise, all honor should be given.  
For Thou art the great God.

## WHO ART IN HEAVEN

"Thou, by Thy wisdom, rul'st the world's whole frame;  
Forever, therefore . . .

## HALLOWED BE THY NAME

"Let nevermore delays divide us from  
Thy glorious grace, but let . . .

## THY KINGDOM COME

"Let Thy commands opposed be by none;  
But Thy good pleasure and . . .

## THY WILL BE DONE

"And let our promptness to obey be even  
The very same . . .

## ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

"Then for our soul, O Lord, we also pray  
Thou wouldst be pleased to . . .

## GIVE US THIS DAY

"The food of life, wherefrom our souls are fed,  
Sufficient raiment and . . .

## OUR DAILY BREAD

"With every needful thing do Thou relieve us,  
And of thy mercy, pity . . .

## AND FORGIVE US

"All our misdeeds, for Him whom Thou didst please  
To make an offering for . . .

## OUR TRESPASSES

"And for as much, O Lord, as we believe  
That Thou will pardon us

## AS WE FORGIVE

"Let that love teach, wherewith Thou dost acquaint us,  
To pardon all . . .

## THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US

"And though, sometimes, Thou find'st we have forgot  
This love for Thee, yet help . . .

## AND LEAD US NOT

"Though soul and body want to desperation,  
Nor earth's gain drive us . . .

## INTO TEMPTATION

"Let not the soul of any true believer  
Fall in the time of trial

## BUT DELIVER

"Yes, save them from the malice of the devil  
And in both life and death keep . . .

## US FROM EVIL

"Thus pray we, Lord, for that of Thee  
This may be had . . .

## FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM

"This world is Thy work, its wondrous story  
To Thee belongs . . .

## THE POWER AND THE GLORY

"And all Thy wondrous works have ended never  
But will remain forever and . . .

## KIDS Korner

By Aunt Mary

Hi! This week has been a happy one spent by the side of a quiet little lake in Wisconsin. For me the last two years have been very busy, and there has been little time for quiet thinking. But this week there has been more time for Bible reading, sleeping a little later in the morning (not too late with nineteen children about), time for a little fishing, for a swim in the clear water each day. (Uncle Chuck says I have Texas blood, because I get cold faster than the others and have to get out of the water sooner.)

It has been lots of fun to look down from the dock or out of a boat and see the schools of tiny fish, to try to guess which are minnows, which will grow into big beautiful bass, or sunfish or suckers. The boys have had fun catching little green-spotted frogs and long many-legged crayfish. (When I was a child we called them crawdads, but my young nephew tells me they are crayfish.)

The week has been fun, but we learned that one cannot spend all day just having fun. Even the children, though they did not always realize it, were glad that there was work to be done, much of it different from what they do at home. Andy and Johnny both learned to clean the little fish they caught, and that was more fun than their daily jobs at home. But I notice that our men, who have cleaned many more fish, like their regular jobs better.

I have thought about two verses from the Bible this week. Jesus said to His disciples in Mark 6:31, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while." And Psalm 37:7 says, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him." This week I am trying again to learn to rest and trust in the Lord.

Have you had a "going away" vacation this summer? Whether you have or not, I want to suggest a special vacation at home for you.

You remember that the Civil War was just a hundred years ago. In that war our country was torn apart, with brothers fighting on opposite sides, both sides believing they were fighting for the right.

Our Wheaton Public Library has sponsored this year a Reading Club featuring Civil War books. Children who read a certain number of books on the Civil War get a special pin. The library has put all the books on this subject together in a special place to encourage children to read them.

Johnny, who is nine, became interested in the history of that war, perhaps through a television program he saw. Right away he got one of these books, read it very excitedly. Then he came to me, "Mother, did you know about a great general in the Civil War named Robert E. Lee?" He was anxious to share his new-found knowledge. Johnny had not yet learned that General Lee was the leader of the whole Southern Army, possibly the most famous general of both sides. Lee, one of my great heroes, I had read more about than any other Civil War hero. But I was thrilled again with Johnny's interest.

A friend, Uncle Al, offered him a fascinating book filled with pictures, and he spent several days absorbing facts of history. Now, if Johnny has had fun learning

## FOREVER

"Thus we poor creatures would confess again  
And thus would say eternally . . .

## AMEN."

Pray for Evangelist Sumner's meetings:

August 27-September 10:  
City-Wide Meeting  
Crowell, Texas

September 12-24:  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Newton, Iowa

Civil War history, think how much you can enjoy the same subject.

## Put God's Work In Your Will

Thousands of Christians neglect the duty and privilege of making a will. By making a will you can keep much property and cash from being wasted in court costs, lawyer's fees, etc. You can also see that God's work is cared for instead of leaving money to be quarreled over by relatives when often it will do more harm than good. Often there are some particular loved ones who ought to be cared for and then God's work surely ought to have a part for getting out the Gospel.

The Sword of the Lord Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, greatly needs the present support and future support of God's people in getting out the Gospel around the world through our Free Literature Fund, our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund, our nationwide radio broadcast, etc. Will you put the Sword of the Lord Foundation in your will? Thus even after you are gone, your money (God's money put in your care) can be used for getting out the Gospel.

## A Form of Bequest

"I \_\_\_\_\_ being of sound mind and memory give, devise, and

Go to your library. Ask the librarian to help you find the children's books on the Civil War, and see how many you can read before school starts. You will want to read some stories, of course, but it is nice to learn as you read, too.

Do you want to be smart? Then remember, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10).

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bequeath to the Sword of the Lord Foundation, at Wheaton, Illinois, a nonprofit Christian corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or if property describe it) to be used for publishing, teaching, and preaching the Gospel and such other purposes as are provided for in the Foundation's charter.

"Signed \_\_\_\_\_

"Date \_\_\_\_\_

It is important that a will should name an administrator, that there should be two witnesses who will sign as witnesses in the presence of the one who makes the will. Usually it is wise to have a lawyer to make the will to insure that all the legal requirements are met and that the money will not be wasted on court fees and lawyer's fees later. Usually if one makes his husband or wife the administrator, it may save time and trouble later. A good lawyer will advise about that.

Will you put the Sword of the Lord Foundation in your will and help us get out the Gospel? We welcome inquiries. Address THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.



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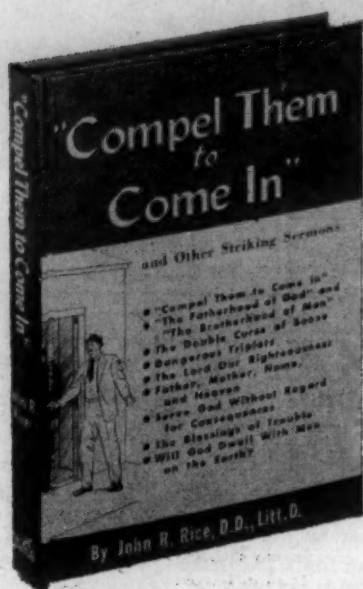
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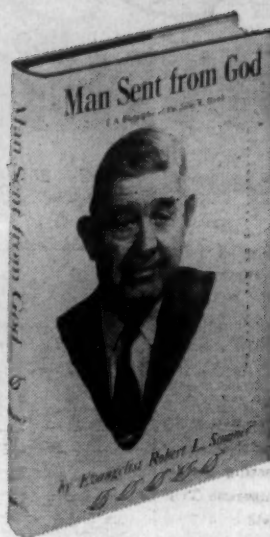
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summer God has helped us to complete the fifteen chapters in this big book of over three hundred pages.

It is now being set in type. We believe by early October it will be ready for widespread sale. The book of over three hundred pages will sell for \$3.00 a copy, a beautiful big, hard bound book about the size of my book *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*. And we believe it will enter into wide usefulness like the book on *Prayer* and like my book, *Home: Courtship, Marriage and Children*.

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There are many good books on soul winning. Most of them follow the pattern set by the fine book of R. A. Torrey on personal soul winning, many years ago. But we believe there is need for a bigger book that gives more detailed Bible teaching, a book that will not only tell how to use some certain Scriptures in soul winning, but a book that will prepare the heart and mind and life of a Christian, making him want to win souls,

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By Evangelist John R. Rice

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**EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD**, 6427 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri, held a revival June 16-July 2 in the First Free Will Baptist Church of Smithfield, North Carolina. Rev. Chester R. Phillips reports that the church experienced a real revival with souls saved from the opening service, and many Christians drawn closer to the Lord as they sought His will for their lives. The meeting was originally scheduled for only one week but was continued because of the blessing God gave. The Sunday following the close of the services, thirty-two converts were baptized.

**EVANGELIST DON WILSON**, Route 3, Taylors, South Carolina, held a revival meeting June 18-25 in the Bible Baptist Tabernacle of Gainesville, Florida. There were 5 conversions, 9 rededications, and 8 who pledged to win souls. Rev. Mack H. Richardson, pastor, reports, "Evangelist Don Wilson is an outstanding preacher who preaches the Scriptures with power."

**EVANGELIST GLEN H. SCHUNK**, 10 Blythwood Drive, Greenville, South Carolina, recently concluded a twelve-day summer meeting with the Valley View Baptist Church of Council Bluffs, Iowa, where Rev. Paul Miller is pastor. There were 39 first-time decisions for Christ, 66 who came for assurance, life service, rededication, and establishing family altars, and 32 Christians who pledged to surrender for soul winning.

**EVANGELIST JOE MILLER**, Route 1, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, held a meeting June 27-July 9 in the Hagerstown Rescue Mission. Jimmy Resh, superintendent of the mission, reports there were 7 souls saved and that God mightily blessed the folk in the mission. One seventy-year-old man was saved during the revival.

**EVANGELIST JOHN WINSTEAD**, White Oak Court, Greenville, South Carolina, recently held a two-week revival at the Community Bible Chapel, Clinton, Pennsylvania, where Bob Kern is pastor. There were 8 conversions and 16 other decisions among Christians. The pastor reports that the Lord mightily used Brother Winstead to stir up Christians for soul winning. There have been people saved every week since the meeting closed.

**EVANGELIST JOHN L. FRANCIS**, 6530 Bluff Road, Indianapolis 27, Indiana, held a ten-day meeting recently in the First Baptist Church of Chesterton, Indiana. Rev. Donald M. Johnson reports 35 professions of faith and 25 other decisions among Christians.

Though we are not personally well acquainted with the ministry of Evangelist M. M. Pearson, Fort Pierce, Florida, good word comes about him from Pastor Norman G. Lemmons of the Davidson Memorial Baptist Church, Shelby, North Carolina. "Evangelist Pearson has just finished a revival here at Davidson Memorial Baptist Church, Shelby, North Carolina, and God used him in a marvelous way. His preaching is Bible-centered, and very spiritual. There were several saved, and many came for rededication. I am sure the ministry of this devoted evangelist will be a blessing to any pastor."

**EVANGELIST CECIL PEACOCK**, P.O. Box 206, Bartow, Florida, held a revival July 17-30

Faults are thick when love is thin.

Blaming your faults on your nature does not change the nature of your faults.—Anonymous.

You cannot stumble if you are on your knees.

in the Maranatha Baptist Church of Ripley, Tennessee. Norman T. Jones, pastor, reports 18 public decisions including 5 public professions (plus 3 conversions in the homes), 10 rededications, and 2 who were restored to church membership and fellowship. A visitation program has been established in the church as a result of the meetings. He further says, "I heartily recommend Evangelist Cecil Peacock as an outstanding evangelist whose life and ministry is Spirit filled. He will be a blessing to any church in the great work of revival and evangelism. A real need was met in our church through his life and messages."

**EVANGELIST BILL HALL**, P. O. Box 427, Greeneville, Tennessee, held a revival June 18-July 2 at the Fellowship Baptist Church of Kinston, North Carolina. Daniel S. Morris, pastor, reports 8 or 10 conversions, 2 rededications and other decisions among Christians. He says, "I can heartily recommend Brother Hall to any pastor who wants a man who will work with him and at the same time preach on the needs of the day. Brother Hall makes no apology for being fundamental in his position. Sound preaching and a loving spirit are used together to win souls to Christ, and cause Christians to renounce sin."

**EVANGELIST DON WILSON**, Route 3, Taylors, South Carolina, held a revival July 9-16 at the Eaton Street Baptist Church in Albion, Michigan. Milton Endean, pastor, reports 30 decisions including 12 conversions during the week. He says, "I recommend Don highly to any church that wishes a clean-cut presentation of the Gospel for the lost and nourishing food for the saved."

**EVANGELIST J. OSCAR WELLS**, Box 417, Bethany, Oklahoma, held a revival July 23-30 in the Horace Baptist Church of Horace, Illinois. Bill Stone, pastor, reports 7 saved in the eight nights with 9 coming into the church.

Arvis Griggs, pastor of the Faith Bible Church of Dallas, Texas, reports a blessed meeting which **REV. RICK INGLE**, pastor of the East Side Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, held in their church July 23-29. In the seven nights there were 42 additions to the church with 38 souls saved and 4 additions by letter. An entire gang of teen-age juvenile delinquents recently arrested by the Dallas police came to make fun of the meetings and found Christ in the services.

**EVANGELIST BYRON FLETCHER**, 3708 Ramona Drive, Riverside, California, writes to tell us that in a revival July 5-16 at the Linda Vista Baptist Church of San Diego where Dr. Otto H. Reese is pastor, there were 96 who came into the church by baptism, 8 by letter and 56 rededications. He reports 2,650 decisions including conversions and rededications in fifteen revivals and eleven times supplying the pulpit since October 23, 1960, when he entered full-time revival work.

**EVANGELIST ARNOLD WILLIS**, 405 Linden Circle, Huntington 5, West Virginia, reports preaching at a camp meeting July 12-23 at the Union Camp Ground near New Haven, West Virginia. At this Evangelical United Brethren camp meeting, there were 17 first-time decisions. July 23-30 he directed the music in a city-wide campaign sponsored by the Christian Businessmen's Group in the city with Dr. B. R. Lakin as evangelist. There were 16 recorded conversions.

**EVANGELIST A. K. PAULEY**, 508½ Buckley Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee, reports a good meeting July 9-23 in the Gospel Baptist Church near Whitwell, Tennessee. There were 16 first-time decisions together with three families being truly revived.

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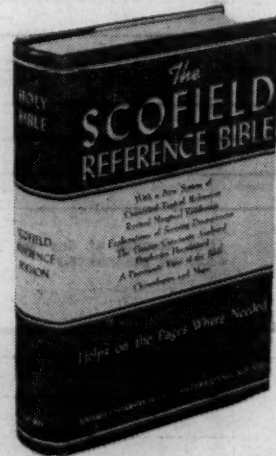
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## Ministers Speak

(Continued from page 1)

It was while reading this sermon that I felt impressed to go to the mission field. Since then I have served in Barbados, the West Indies and in the Republic of Panama and Costa Rica in Central America."

Thus writes Rev. William Livingston of the College Hill Chapel Church of God of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who has returned from the mission field due to his wife's health.

### Called to Preach Because of Messages in Sword

Rev. Harry J. Bain with The Evangelical Alliance Mission and stationed at Dundee, Natal, South Africa, says:

"Many years ago while still living with my dad someone gave me a copy of the SWORD. I do not remember who it was or just when it was. But when the Lord called me to preach His Word I realized that it was because of the messages in the SWORD, your books (which I ordered often), that led me to a closer walk with Him and to a determination to do His will in my life. . . . The following September, 1948, I was enrolled at BJU. . . . At BJU I was required to take your paper weekly, outline the sermons, etc. May I say that that task was always one of the more pleasant ones. I have enjoyed the SWORD to this day and will be taking it for many more years, Lord willing. We appreciate your open stand for the right in this terrible day of compromise. It is very difficult to stand up boldly and to let folks know where you stand in these evil days, but again the Lord has given us much grace. . . ."

Rev. William P. Kirkindall of the Mississippi County Union Mission at Blytheville, Arkansas, sent \$7.00 to renew his subscription for three years and told us: "I know of some people who have been saved through the ministry of THE SWORD OF THE LORD."

The following letter is interesting from Pastor Stanley Kane-shiro of the King's Bible Church of Wahiawa, Oahu, Hawaii. He resubscribed for THE SWORD OF THE LORD and then told how Dr. Rice gave him a start in Bible study soon after his conversion twenty years ago. At that time he obtained *Twelve Tremendous Themes* which gave him a real taste for God's Word.

"I have now obtained almost all of your books. . . . Five years ago when I left Hawaii for Okinawa to do missionary work, I thoughtlessly let my subscription expire. Returning to Hawaii recently, I was thrilled to find an issue of the SWORD lying around in my parents' home. In that issue I read your article on Billy Graham and was shocked to see how far he had drifted. But, I was happy to read your sound, scholarly, and scriptural views on the matter. This age of apostasy certainly needs a champion like you to keep us in line with the Word."

### Sends Subscriptions to His Membership

A pastor after our own heart! Rev. Herbert Noe, pastor of the Galilean Baptist Church in Detroit, enclosed \$20 in his letter of June 15 for ten subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD to his church members, with this comment: "More and more I am realizing that the SWORD speaks straight on the issues I'm concerned about. I also want my people informed and I want to express my appreciation for your uncompromising stand. The best way I know to express my appreciation is to send subscriptions. I trust to be able to send many more."

We trust that these ten members of his flock will be greatly blessed and strengthened in their Christian life and in their service to the church, by this dear pastor's concern.

### "You Would Be Missed More Than Anyone I Know Should God Call You Home"

Pastor Otis Meadows of Modesto, Illinois, has received the SWORD for a number of years and calls

it "the best Christian newspaper there is being published," without agreeing with it in every detail. "We preachers who believe in the old-time faith, tried and true, consider you our spokesman against all things that dishonor the name of our Lord. We love you, honor you, pray for you and you would be missed more than any man I know if God should call you home," he writes.

Dr. Rice is greatly comforted by letters from pastors. He loves to preach to pastors. He loves to pray with pastors. And he loves to hear good men of God preach.

Rev. R. N. Wolfe, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Apple Valley, California, tells how he received THE SWORD OF THE LORD: "As a farewell present to his temporary pastor, one of our visiting servicemen subscribed to THE SWORD OF THE LORD for me. This is a pleasant switch. I have received the SWORD for only slightly over one month. While I cannot rubber stamp everything I read in this paper, nonetheless, I am happy to testify that already the paper has been a blessing to me. . . . I will say, the price of the paper has already been realized through the blessing of such messages as 'Russian Roulette' or 'Christ Was Made to Be Sin For Us.' Brother Wolfe also ordered 100 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?' saying that he desired to place this tract with a personal testimony in every home in his small valley.

### Filipino Pastors "Strongly Flavored" by Sword

Rev. Frank R. Jenista of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism in the Philippines writes this interesting letter about gift subscriptions to native pastors on the island there:

"It has been my pleasure to receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD for some time as a Missionary Gift Subscription. I am indeed grateful for those who have made it possible to have this timely magazine in our home. It certainly is a 'voice crying in the wilderness' in these days of loose doctrine, lax convictions, and compromise. May the Lord bless you in your efforts and the stand that you take.

"I would like further to thank you and commend you for the vision that makes it possible for many of our Filipino pastors to receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD. They are for the most part unable to financially subscribe to your paper, yet they can share the blessings and convictions of THE SWORD. Oftentimes when one of the pastors speaks convictions that seem strongly flavored by materials from THE SWORD, he is jokingly called a 'Rice' (John R.) Christian. I believe that your sending this magazine to these pastors is a missionary project of no small proportion, and is an effective messenger. I trust that the project will have many supporters and that it will continue its ministry for a long time to come."

Many of you send gifts regularly to the Missionary and Minister Subscription Gift Fund. Some of this money goes to pay for subscriptions to individuals in the Philippine Islands—the people whom Rev. Jenista is talking about in his letter.

Thank you Rev. U. W. Giles of Blue Ridge, Virginia, for your encouraging word of May 2. Dr. Rice certainly did need your letter for encouragement since he does have many discouraging ones. Thank you for the paragraph which reads: "Since there are letters come in to belittle you and the great work which you are doing, I could not wait any longer to write. I know a little of what it is like when one stands for the truth and does not compromise—Nehemiah 6:1-3. I have told others and now I tell you, that you and your staff, as I see it, are doing the greatest work for the Lord in the world today." And thank you also for your renewal subscription and the subscriptions for two of your members.

Thousands of our readers are ministers and missionaries and Christian workers. The confidence of that many preachers surely must be well founded! We believe that THE SWORD would be a blessing to your pastor, too, if he does

## Denominational Bosses Steal . . .

(Continued from page 1)

liberalism at Mount Olive Junior College, a Free Will Baptist School located at Mount Olive, North Carolina. He rightly protested the dedication of the Mount Olive Yearbook to a Roman Catholic. To have the pastor of the largest Free Will Baptist church in the area actively opposed to the old, well-established denominational college has long been a thorn in the side of state leaders. Ten years ago the Western North Carolina Conference had refused to ordain Creech mainly because he was a graduate of the strongly fundamental Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. He then was ordained by Free Will Baptists in Tennessee.

In September of last year, the Western Conference relieved Brother Creech of his ordination credentials and preaching rights because he refused to submit to the wishes of the state conference. The Edgemont Church refused to accept the action of the state group and gave their pastor an overwhelming vote of confidence.

State leaders then conspired with a handful of disgruntled folk in the Edgemont Church to oppose the pastor. The state leaders (led by M. L. Johnson, treasurer of Mount Olive College) then took the matter to court to have Creech and the majority put out of the buildings.

A key document in the court case was an affidavit signed by a number of North Carolina Free Will Baptist pastors claiming that the Free Will Baptist group is ruled by a connectional form of church government in which the local church is not autonomous but subject to the dictates of the state Free Will Baptist conference. Any informed true Baptist in the country knows that historically the Baptist position is for congregational church government where each local church owns its own property and makes its own decisions.

The National Free Will Baptist Association in its annual meeting at Norfolk, Virginia, in July impeached from national office all of the North Carolina men who had signed the unbaptistic affidavit which removed the Edgemont congregation from their property. Included in those put out of office were five officials of Mount Olive Junior College. They also put the North Carolina Conference on probation until they repudiate their position on connectional church government.

These are serious days for Free Will Baptists. If they let the North Carolina state group get away with their stealing of the Edgemont Church property, it could form the opening wedge for the complete loss of all local church rights in the future. Now is the time to see that right is done by Brother Creech and his church.

not already receive it. That would be a golden opportunity for you to bring blessing not only into the life of God's man, but for you to have a part in influencing all the hundreds of lives his ministry touches.

Every Christian, perhaps, cannot preach; but by contributing to the blessing and knowledge of a preacher you become just as surely an instrument of God to the saving of souls.

Perhaps you cannot write to your missionary representative as often as you would like. Missionaries in foreign countries get so hungry for news from home, and here is a way you can provide a message from you each week, even when you are too busy to write. At the same time, you will be giving that missionary the blessing of reading the sermons in the paper. If you have money to invest in the Lord's work, even a small amount, what better way could you use it than to subscribe for THE SWORD OF THE LORD for missionaries and preachers?

Subscriptions in U. S. and Canada: 1 year \$3.

Foreign subscription rates: 1 year \$4.50.

Address: Sword of the Lord, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

For the last few weeks, with a stronger emphasis than ever, we have been calling our friends' attention to the dangers we are facing in the "realm of religion." The Bible makes it clear that God is not the author of confusion, and there is more religious confusion in America and around the world than we have ever had before. Up until a few years ago, when a preacher preached, you knew he believed the Bible. You do not know that any more. He may believe the Bible just contains or may contain the Word of God. He may even say, "The Scripture says . . ." without saying, ". . . and whatever the Bible says is so."

—Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

It is gratifying that national action has been taken to protest what has been done in North Carolina.

### Pray for Ronald Creech

Christians ought to pray for Brother Creech and his congregation. These are trying days. Moving a congregation of around five hundred to temporary quarters is a serious matter. There is tremendous expense involved both in providing temporary quarters and in paying the legal costs of the court matters. Pray that the people of Edgemont will stick with their pastor in his crusade for what is right.

This court case should be a warning to Baptists everywhere. Always there is increasing pressure from state and national Baptist groups to count blind loyalty to a denominational program the test of fellowship. When pastors are no longer free to oppose worldliness and modernism in "sacred cow" denominational schools, then Baptist independence and freedom are gone. This case reminds us of the famous Rocky Mount, North Carolina, case in which the state Baptist Convention, helped by Southern Baptist leaders, poured thousands of dollars into a court case in which the church property of a Southern Baptist church in Rocky Mount was awarded to the minority group because the majority favored withdrawing from the Southern Baptist Convention. Leaders swore that a church was not a true Baptist Church if independent. In a more recent case, the First Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas, withdrew support from the American Baptist Convention and the American Baptists took them to court to try to get the church property. In this case, the majority was upheld by the court as being the true church congregation and the buildings remained with the First Baptist Church majority group.

## Dr. Sanden Enters Bible Conf. Ministry

Dr. Oscar E. Sanden, who has been pastor for nearly ten years of the Warrendale Presbyterian Church, Como Avenue at Oxford, St. Paul 3, Minnesota, writes me, "After January, 1962, I plan to devote all my time to Bible conferences and evangelistic meetings." He is already booking engagements. Dr. Sanden is a specialist, a scholar, in the realm particularly of science and the Bible. He is a fundamental Presbyterian minister, graduate of Columbia and Austin Presbyterian Seminaries, was led into the ministry by Dr. R. A. Torrey. His messages are interesting, convincing, faith strengthening.

The most powerful part of a sermon is the man behind it.—Phillips Brooks

Service can never become slavery to one who loves.—J. I. Massee

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# Searching the Scriptures for the Saviour

By Elizabeth Rice Handford

## Psalm 102 Jesus Christ the Same

Have you ever wondered how the Lord Jesus must have felt when He was humiliated and despised by the very people whom He came to save? In the 102nd Psalm, we find out. We know that this Psalm concerns Christ, because over in Hebrews 1:8 and following, the Scripture says, "But unto the Son he saith," then it quotes Psalm 103:25 through 27—the first part concerning His humiliation, when God Himself turned His back on Him, because He bore our sin; the last part concerning His eternal Godhead. "Thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end."

We might forget, as we read of the Baby born in a stable, laid in a manger, growing to Manhood without a place to lay His head, and dying in agony on the cross—we might forget that He is God Himself, Creator of Heaven and earth, and that all things consist by His Word. So everywhere in the Scriptures God reminds us of Jesus' power, His faithfulness, His compassion, which remain the same. "Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, and to day, and for ever!" (Heb 13:8).

### Clues Across

- 1 "But -----, O Lord, shalt endure for ever" Rom. 3
- 5, 50 across "But thou ----- the same, and thy years shall have ----- end"
- 7 "He will regard ----- prayer of the destitute"
- 9 mother of Samuel (I Sam. 1:20)
- 11 "how long will it be ----- they attain to innocence?" Hos. 8
- 12 "There is none righteous, ----- not one" Rom. 3
- 14 father of Melchizedek, an ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:28)
- 15 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to ----- that which was lost" Luke 19
- 17 "Jesus Christ the ----- yesterday, and to day, and for ever" Heb. 13
- 19 "thou hast lifted me up, ----- cast me down"
- 20 "the heavens are the work of ----- hands"
- 21 Hebrew word for God
- 22 "they ----- in the dry places like a river" Ps. 105
- 24 son of Judah (Gen. 38:3)
- 26 "they shall call ----- my name, and I will hear them" Zech. 13
- 28 city of Moab on the border (Num. 21:15)
- 29 "I will ----- water upon him that is thirsty" Isa. 44
- 31 he had this testimony: he pleased God (Heb. 11:5)
- 33 "thou hast been faithful over a ----- things" Matt. 25
- 34 "thy ----- are throughout all generations"
- 35 "he ----- appear in his glory"
- 37 "----- my prayer, O Lord"
- 38 a son of Gad (Gen. 46:16)
- 39 "----- the last it biteth like a serpent" Prov. 23
- 41 "----- Lord God! Wilt thou make a full end?" Ezek. 11
- 42 initials of two people to whom Paul witnessed; one who trembled, but did not believe, and one who believed with her household (Acts 24:25; 16:14)
- 43 "Until the time that his word -----" Ps. 105
- 45 "Thy words were found, and I did ----- them" Jer. 15

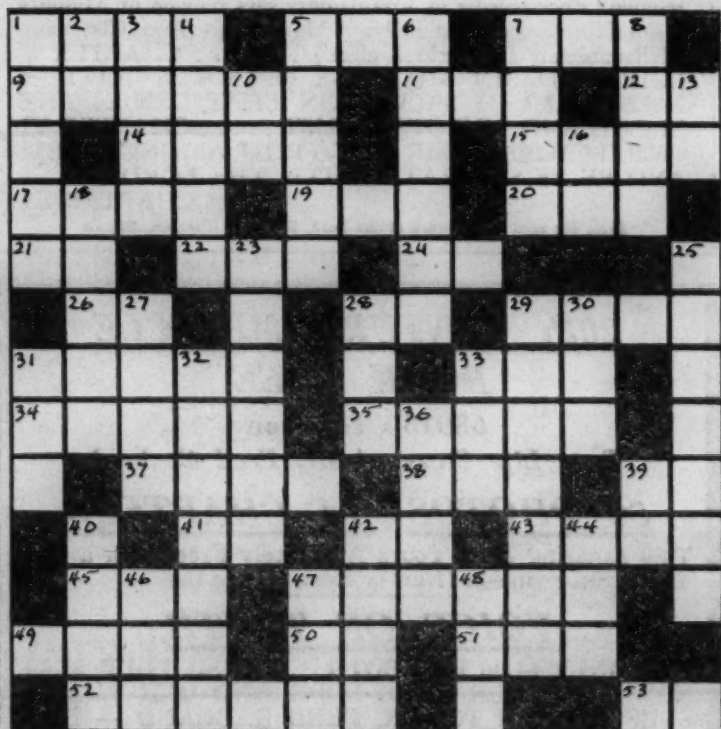
- 47 "We are ----- (s) and fatherless" Lam. 5
- 49 "I ----- eaten ashes like bread" see 5 across
- 51 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the -----" Rev. 21
- 52 "to ----- them that were under the law" Gal. 4
- 53 "This shall ----- written for the generation to come"

### Clues Down

- 1 "to loose ----- that are appointed to death"
- 2 exclamation of anticipation (Job 39:25)
- 3 son of Shobal (Gen. 36:23)
- 4 "ye are not ----- the law, but under grace" Rom. 6
- 5 son of Shemidah (I Chron. 7:19)
- 6 "he shall grow up before him as a ----- plant" Isa. 53
- 7 to try
- 8 "Let not thine heart ----- sinners" Prov. 23
- 10 advertisement
- 13 initials of two men who feared the Lord, but the first of whom feared Ahab more (I Kings 18:2, 3, 12)
- 16 "Let them not say in their heart, -----" Ps. 35
- 18 "I watch, and am as a sparrow -----"
- 23 daughter of Caleb whom Othniel won by his bravery (Josh. 15:16)
- 25 "This shall be ----- for the generation to come"
- 27 this man's faith condemned the world (Heb. 11:7)
- 28 "a bridle for the -----, and a rod for the fool's back" Prov. 26
- 29 "I am like a ----- of the wilderness"
- 30 "I am like an ----- of the desert"
- 31 "But the ----- of their God was upon the elders" Ezra 5
- 32 "the people which shall be ----- shall praise the Lord"
- 33 "Keep thee ----- from a false matter" Exod. 23
- 36 "My ----- cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" Ps. 121

Deadline: September 4, 1961

Puzzle No. 34



Mail to: Puzzle Editor, SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois  
PRINT CLEARLY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

(Cut along dotted lines)

- 39 "Hide not thy face from me in the day when I ----- in trouble"
- 40 "So the heathen shall ----- the name of the Lord"
- 42 "----- heaven did the Lord behold the earth"
- 44 "----- they shall be changed"
- 46 Latin word for "Hail"
- 47 "we thus judge, that if ----- died for all, then were all dead" II Cor. 5
- 48 "thy servants take pleasure in ----- stones"

**Free!**

for correct,  
prompt answers to

Puzzle Number 34



TWO ROADS BEFORE ME  
by I. A. Moon

The author starts his discussion with the following statement: "To avoid Hell and to gain Heaven is man's supreme accomplishment."

"Incongruous as it may seem, however, he can neither avoid the one, nor attain the other by anything he may do."

Moon first argues the reasonableness of Hell's reality, what it is like and why a loving God must send some of His creatures there. Next, he deals with the reality of Heaven, what it is like and how one can be sure of going there.

Suffice it to say of this booklet: get it and give it!

## THE RULES

1. Fill in blanks according to clues given. Answer must be complete and correct. We use the Scofield Reference Bible in making up the clues.

2. PRINT name and address in blank below puzzle. This coupon serves as your address label for envelope containing your prize. If you print your answers on a separate sheet in order to not cut your Sword, put them in the same form as the puzzle rather than in columns. Entries will not be returned.

3. If paper arrives after deadline, place date of arrival on puzzle entry. Answer to Puzzle Number 34 will appear in September 15 issue.

4. Each person having a correct entry will receive a coupon along with the weekly prize. Save these coupons! End of the year prizes are: World Bible with concordance, or Rainbow edition of the Bible for young readers (King James Version) for 48 coupons; a compact and easy to handle World Bible (King James Version) for 40 coupons; Illustrated Bible Geography and Atlas for 25 coupons.

Remember, your coupons are the only record of your correct entries. It will be your responsibility to keep the coupons. Duplicate coupons will not count as two separate coupons. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR COMPLETE ADDRESS ON PUZZLE, NOTE OR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

### Answer to Puzzle No. 31

THOU ART MY N  
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BEGOTTEN THEE  
LO R E NEAR  
ENEMIES PARTS

## How to Trust Christ

(Continued from page 1)

sanctuary with a letter of invitation to you, with your name and address on it, you would not doubt your warrant to accept it. Well, here is the Bible, your invitation to come to Christ. It does not bear your name and address, but it says "Whosoever"—that takes you in; it says "all"—that takes you in; it says "if any"—that takes you in. What can be surer or freer than that?

### Do Not Work to Believe: Simply Turn the Matter Over to Christ and Rely on Him

Equally helpful are the words of Horatius Bonar in *Words for the Inquiring*:

If you object that you cannot believe, then this indicates that you are proceeding quite in a wrong direction. You are still laboring under the idea that this believing is a work to be done by you, and not the acknowledgement of a work done by another. You would fain do something in order to get peace, and you think that if you could do this great thing "believing," if you could but perform this great act called faith, God would at once reward you by giving you peace. Thus faith is reckoned by you to be the price, in the sinner's hand, by which he buys peace, and not the mere holding out of the hand to get a peace which has already been bought by another. So long as you are attaching any meritorious importance to faith, however unconsciously, you are moving in a wrong direction—a direction from which no peace can come.

Surely faith is not a work. On the contrary, it is a ceasing from work. It is not a climbing of the mountain, but a ceasing to attempt it, and allowing Christ to carry you up in His own arms.

You seem to think that it is your act of faith that is to save you, and not the object of your faith, without which your act, however well performed, is nothing. Accordingly, you bethink yourself, and say, "What a mighty work is this believing—what an effort does it require on my part—how am I to perform it?" Herein you sadly err, and your mistake lies chiefly here, in supposing that your peace is to come from the proper performance on your part of an act of faith; whereas, it is to come entirely from the proper perception of Him to whom the Father is pointing your eyes, and in regard to whom He is saying, "Behold my servant whom I have chosen, look at Him, forget everything else—everything about yourself, your own faith, your own repentance, your own feelings—and look at Him! It is in Him, not out of your poor act of faith, that salvation lies; and out of Him, not out of your own act of faith, is peace to come."

Thus mistaking the meaning of faith and the way which faith saves you, you get into confusion, and mistake everything else connected with your peace: you mistake the real nature of that very inability to believe of which you complain so sadly. For that inability does not lie, as you fancy it does, in the impossibility of your performing aright the great act of faith, but of ceasing from all such self-righteous attempts to perform any act, or do any work whatsoever in order to your being saved. So that the real truth is that you have not yet seen such a sufficiency in the one great work of the Son of God upon the cross, as to lead you utterly to discontinue your mistaken and aimless efforts to work out something of your own.

But perhaps you may object further, that you are not satisfied with your faith. No, truly, nor are you ever likely to be. If you wait for this before you take peace, you will wait till life is done. Not satisfaction with your own faith, but satisfaction with Jesus and His work, this is what God presses on you. You say, "I am satisfied with Christ." Are you? What more, then, do you wish? Is not satisfaction with Christ enough for you, or for every sinner? Nay, and is not this the truest kind of faith? To be satisfied with Christ, that is faith in Christ. To be satisfied with His blood, that is faith.

What more could you have? Can your faith give you something which Christ cannot? Or will Christ give you nothing till you can produce faith of a certain kind and quality, whose excellences will entitle you to blessing? Do not bewilder yourself. Do not suppose that your faith is a price, or a bribe, or a merit. Is not the very essence of real faith just your being satisfied with Christ? Are you really satisfied with Him and with what He has done? Then do not puzzle yourself about your faith, but go on your way rejoicing, having thus been brought to be satisfied with Him who to know is peace, and life, and salvation....

Faith, however perfect, has of itself nothing to give you either of pardon or of life. Its finger points you to Jesus. Its voice bids you look straight to Him. Its object is to turn away from itself and from yourself altogether, that you may behold Him, and in beholding Him be satisfied with Him and in being satisfied with Him have joy and peace.

### Abandon Yourself to Christ: He Has Finished the Atonement

Likewise James Denny, in *The Death of Christ*, teaches the same lesson:

"It is this great Gospel which is the gospel to win souls—this message of a sin-bearing, sin-expiating love which pleads for acceptance, which takes the whole responsibility of the sinner, unconditionally, with no preliminaries, if only he abandon himself to it."

A young person who felt that his time in this world was short, wrote to an eminent English preacher to write and tell a sinner what he must do to prepare to die—what is the preparation required by God—and when he is fit to die. The preacher wrote:

I urge you to cast yourself at once, in the simplest faith, upon the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. All your true preparation for death is entirely out of yourself and in the Lord Jesus. Washed in His blood, and clothed upon with His righteousness, you may appear before God divinely, fully, freely and forever accepted. The salvation of the chief of sinners is all prepared, finished and complete in Christ (Eph. 1:6; Col. 2:10).

Again I repeat, your eye of faith must now be directed entirely out of and from yourself, to Jesus. Beware of looking for any preparation to meet death in yourself. It is all in Christ. God does not accept you on the ground of a broken heart, or a clean heart, or a praying heart, or a believing heart. He accepts you wholly and entirely on the ground of the atonement of His blessed Son. Cast yourself in child-like faith upon that atonement—"Christ dying for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6)—and you are saved!

Justification is this: a poor law-condemned, self-condemned, self-destroyed sinner, wrapping himself by faith in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is unto all them that believe (Rom. 3:22). He, then, is justified and is prepared to die, and he only, who casts from him the garment of his own righteousness and runs unto this blessed city of Refuge—the Lord Jesus—and hides himself there—exclaiming, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). God is prepared to accept you in His blessed Son, and for His sake He will cast all your sins behind His back, and take you to glory when you die.

Never was Jesus known to reject a poor sinner who came to Him empty and with nothing to pay. God will glorify His free grace by your salvation, and will therefore save you just as you are, without money and without price (Isa. 55:1).

I close with Paul's reply to the anxious jailor, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). No matter what you have been, or what you are, plunged into the fountain opened for sin, and for uncleanness (Zech. 13:1), and you shall be clean, "washed whiter than snow" (Ps. 51:7). Heed no suggestion of Satan, or of unbelief; cast yourself at the feet of Jesus, and if you perish, perish there! Oh, no! Perish you never will, (Continued on page 12)



## Dear Catholic . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the Scripture will prove insincerity. To add obligations or authority or rules or doctrines to those in the Bible, and to bow to authority beside the authority of the Bible and the authorities plainly given in the Bible means to bring the curse, the plagues written in the book of Revelation, to those who add thus to the canon of Scripture their opinions and organizations and traditions and rules and doctrines.

Some bring God's curse on them by marking off part of the Bible, calling it erroneous, uninspired, less than the very Word of God. Others achieve the same affect by setting up another authority beside the Bible which steals from the Bible part of its own God-given authority. So Mormons have the Book of Mormons and add it to God's Word. So Christian Scientists have the writings of Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy and add them to the authority of the Bible. So Seventh-Day Adventists have often, in the past, added the writings of Mrs. White and called them authoritative and inspired like the Bible. And so the Roman Catholic organization puts up the authority of a church, the traditions of popes and councils, and thus would drain away the real authority that God has put in the Word of God. And so Roman Catholicism takes its place as a false cult and must be so recognized by those who accept the authority of the Bible itself, the authority which it claims beyond any possible doubt, the authority which Christ Himself recognized in the Bible.

Jesus quoted to the Pharisee the words of Isaiah about people who honor God with their lips but whose heart is far from Him. In Mark 7:6-9 we read:

*"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Hovbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."*

Pharisees were hypocrites because they gave only nominal and verbal assent to the Scriptures and really they worshipped God in vain, "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." And Jesus accused them, "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." Honest people could not say that the Pharisees did not add to the commands of God with their tradition and commandments of men. And every student in the matter must know, and you are intelligent enough to know, that the Roman Church has added to the commandments of God even more than did the Pharisees in Bible times. They make traditions of men take the place of the commandments of God. You pretend to be for the Bible, to accept its authority. You even claim that you accept the authority of the church on the authority of the Bible. Then you must accept what Jesus said on the matter or accept His brand as a hypocrite on certain matters.

### 1. The Bible plainly forbids making any image for worship and bowing down to any image.

In Exodus 20:4 and 5 the Scripture says:

*"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me."*

And any honest reader knows that that Scripture forbids using an image in worship, bowing down to it, praying before it, and serving it. And yet the Catholic

Church not only has images, but encourages people to pray to images, to the crucifix, to images of Mary, to images of saints. Here Roman tradition violates the Bible, and the commandments of men take the place of the commandments of God. That is sin.

### 2. The Scriptures command that "a bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife . . ." (I Tim. 3:2).

The Roman Church says that a bishop must have no wife at all. It even makes foolish pretensions that Peter put away his wife, though there is not a scratch of history in the Bible or out to indicate anything of the kind. It is a clear case of putting human tradition ahead of the Bible.

### 3. Jesus Christ plainly taught that Mary was on the same plane with all other Christians who would do the will of God.

In Mark 3:31-35 we read:

*"There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."*

Do not avoid the truth here on the authority of Jesus Christ. "Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother." And when one heard Jesus and cried out, "Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked," Jesus answered, "Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it" (Luke 11:27, 28). There is no hint in the Bible that New Testament Christians ever regarded Mary as more than another good woman. She had no authority among the apostles. No one was taught to pray to her, to do her homage, to adore her, or to partake of the unscriptural worship which Catholics do, but call it by other names. Thus the Roman Church has brought a plague upon itself by adding the commandments of men and traditions of men to the commands of God.

### 4. The Roman Catholic mass disregards the Word of God to add sacrifices for sin contrary to the explicit Word of God.

In Hebrews 10:8-14 is a very clear pronouncement from God that when Christ died on the cross, that did away with all other sacrifices. It reads:

*"Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt-offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."*

This Scripture explicitly says certain things. It says (a) "Sacrifice and offering and burnt-offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law." (b) He expressly says that He did away with the old sacrifices to establish a second. (c) And then He expressly says that the offering of Jesus Christ "once for all" settles the whole matter of sin. Again, He says, "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." When Jesus had paid for all sins and offered the last sacrifice which settled things forever, then He sat down because His sacrificial work was done. (d) There is no need for further sacrifice, "for by one offering he hath

perfected for ever them that are sanctified," that is, them that are set apart for God by the blood of Christ.

Then in the following verses the Lord reminds us of the promise in the Old Testament that He would make a new covenant with men, that He would put the law in their hearts and minds, and He says: "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin" (Heb. 10:17, 18).

Now notice the one grand summing-up statement: "Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." When one has trusted Christ and had his sins forgiven, then "there is no more offering for sin," no more animal sacrifices, no more of any other kind of sacrifices.

So to make the mass a sacrifice, to claim that in the mass Jesus is sacrificed again and again, that the bread becomes His body, that the wine becomes His blood, and that there is saving virtue in this sacrifice—that is a blasphemous rejection of the Bible in favor of traditions of men. That is a false religion, not the Christian religion. Thus Roman Catholic friends, however good their intentions, have made in vain the commandments of God by their traditions.

There is not a single hint anywhere in the entire New Testament that New Testament Christians had any kind of sacrifices. The Lord's Supper was a memorial supper, a simple object lesson, a spiritual reminder that Christ had died for us and we are saved by His blood, and a simple and sweet reminder to all Christians that we belong to God and ought to love Him and serve Him and enter

plagues of the Bible upon the Roman Church.

I have not room here to discuss all the innovations, all the strange and unscriptural doctrines and practices which have been invented by Roman Catholic hierarchy. In the Bible there was no pope and no papal authority, no papal infallibility. There were no prayers to Mary, no doctrine of Mary's Immaculate Conception nor of her body's ascension to Heaven. There were no penances, no indulgences, no confessions to priests, no orders of monks or nuns. All of this is manufactured, not only without the Bible but contrary to the plain teachings of the Word of God.

## II. The Roman Catholic Idea of a Church is Wholly Unknown in the Bible and Contrary to the Bible

You tell me, dear friend, that the Catholic Church is "the true church." But you found no such term in the Bible and no such idea in the Bible. The Bible says nothing about any nationwide or world-wide organization. The idea of a church as a denomination is utterly foreign to the Bible. No such organization can be "the true church" because nothing like that is pictured or promised in the Bible. They had nothing like that in Bible times.

### 1. Churches in the New Testament were local congregations of believers.

The Bible speaks often in such language as "the church of God which is at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2). "The church which was at Jerusalem" (Acts 8:1). But do not think that this was simply a segment of the general church. No,

## No Enemies?

He has no enemies, you say?

My friend, your boast is poor:

He who hath mingled in the fray

Of duty, that the brave endure,

Must have made foes. If he has none

Small is the work that he has done.

He has hit no traitor on the hip;

He has cast no cup from tempted lip;

He has never turned the wrong to right,

He has been a coward in the fight.

—Anon.

into His death. There is not a single hint in the entire Bible that there was any saving virtue in the communion. There is no hint that anybody ever was invited to take the communion or the Lord's Supper in Bible times except as he had already found peace with God and was already forgiven and saved.

### 5. The Roman Catholic Church has perverted the Bible and substituted tradition in making priests out of preachers or elders.

Since the Bible clearly teaches that now there is to be no more sacrifice for sins, and since the Old Testament priesthood has been succeeded by one priest, Jesus Christ, who has offered one sacrifice forever, then there is no teaching of a priesthood to offer sacrifices in the New Testament. There are elders, preachers. Some of these elders had official positions as pastors or supervisors of local congregations. It is true that in the spiritual sense, all Christians are to be "kings and priests unto God" (I Pet. 2:9; Rev. 5:10). But there was no official priestly work done by anyone as an officer of a church, as an elder or bishop in Bible times. It was not even specified that an elder or bishop should even be present when people took the Lord's Supper. It had no official significance. It was a simple little object lesson, a ceremony of remembrance. And there is not a single hint anywhere that the Lord's Supper had any saving power. It was not a sacrifice. It was never called that in the Bible. That is a false doctrine, manufactured by the Church of Rome, which contradicts the Bible, adds to the Bible, and so brings the

for the Scripture much more often uses the plural form for churches like "then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria . . ." (Acts 9:31). Every congregation was a separate church, not part of a general church. "The churches of Galatia" (I Cor. 16:1). "The churches of Asia" (I Cor. 16:19). "The churches of Macedonia" (II Cor. 8:1). "The churches of Galatia" (Gal. 1:2). "The seven churches which are in Asia" (Rev. 1:4).

We see then that in Bible practice and Bible terminology every local congregation was a separate church. If there were more than one, they were still "churches," plural; not "a church" or "the church."

And thus all the officers of New Testament times, the elders or pastors or bishops and the deacons, were officers of local congregations. There were no bishops over a certain territory or province, nor over a number of churches. That whole idea invented by Roman Catholicism is patterned after this world and is not only not found in the Bible but is contrary to the explicit teachings of the Bible. And many denominations have followed Rome in this false practice of area-wide denominations or "churches" which are not churches in the Bible sense.

### 2. The general term "church" is occasionally used referring to the whole body of Christ, all the saved, without any reference to any organization.

The word *church* in the New Testament is translated from the Greek word *ecclesia* and it always means a called-out assembly. That

Greek word is translated everywhere in the New Testament as "church," except in three cases in Acts 19 where in verses 32, 39, and 41 it is translated "assembly," referring to the mob called out at Ephesus. More than ninety times the word *church* or *churches* is used about local congregations. A few times, eight or ten times, it is used in the larger sense of the whole body of Christ. In every such case it refers to that "general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven" (Heb. 12:22, 23), those who will be called out at the rapture when Jesus comes, and then it will be literally a called-out assembly. It is in that sense that "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" in Ephesians 5:25. It refers to every person born again and saved by the blood of Christ. The Lord Jesus never hinted that he was giving Himself for any organization, any so-called "true church" or denomination. For the Church of Rome to claim that it is this one body for whom Christ died is blasphemous, a perversion of the Scripture with an idea wholly unknown in the Bible.

### 3. The foolish idea that the church is founded on Peter is contrary to Scripture and historically false.

The Scripture says as plainly as it can be said that Jesus Christ is the foundation on which Christians are built, and that there is no other foundation. In I Corinthians 3:10, 11, Paul was inspired to write:

*"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

Paul as a wise masterbuilder laid the foundation. That is, he got people saved. He got them to trust in Christ. They are built on Christ. And then he plainly said, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." And it is wise to go back and see the context in the same chapter. There was a division in Corinth over this very matter. He says in verse 4, "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?" And then he closes the chapter by saying: "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (vss. 21-23).

"Cephas" here is Peter. So here divine inspiration in the Bible plainly says that the church and salvation are not built on Paul or Apollos or on Cephas, and that men are not to glory in men, that is, none of these three men nor any others.

So Peter is not the foundation on which Christians are built. He is not the foundation of the church. Christ is the foundation of the church.

But you say, as Catholic dogma teaches you to say and not from any independent study of the Scriptures, which you are not allowed to do—you say that Christ said He would build a church on Peter. You refer to Matthew 16:18, which the Catholic dogma currently teaches (but did not always so teach), that Christ founded the church on Peter. But read it: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Now does Jesus here contradict the other Scriptures and say that the church is founded on Peter instead of on Himself? No indeed. Here there is a Greek play upon the words, "Thou art Peter [the Greek word *Petros*, literally a "little rock"], and upon this rock [Petro, a foundation rock, Christ the Rock, not Peter] I will build my church." Literally what Jesus told Peter is this: "You are a little rock, but on Myself, the great foundation Rock, I will build My church."

You should read the Catholic Fathers and you would see that this is the teaching that was once current among the best Catholic

(Continued on page 12)



theologians. But when the church decided to pronounce the pope infallible, then the church decided to insist upon this dogma, that the church is founded on Peter, that that authority is now in the pope. But at that Council in 1870, you ought to know if you are an informed Catholic, that Bishop Strossmeyer then publicly said in a brilliant speech before the Cardinals what I am saying to you now, that the Bible clearly teaches that Christ Himself is the foundation of the church, not Peter. You are not allowed of course to read the Bible and to study and find what it means if that differs from the Catholic dogma. Once it was proper for the Bible to mean this. Now the Catholic hierarchy has determined it is to mean something else and so you of course as a good Catholic will go by tradition and dogma instead of by the Bible.

Peter himself was inspired to teach that Christ was the rock on which the church and Christians are built. In I Peter 2:3-5, we read:

"... The Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious. Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house..."

Converts come to Christ and thus as living stones are built on the Living Stone into a spiritual house. The same Scripture goes on to say that Jesus is not only the foundation stone, but the Head of the Corner, the Rock of Offense, the Stone of Stumbling. Throughout the Bible, again and again, Christ is called the Stone, the Rock. He is illustrated by the rock in the wilderness which Moses struck and from which came water for the thirsty multitude. In Daniel, chapter 2, He is pictured as the stone that will come at His Second Coming and smite the kings of the earth and destroy them.

No, the church is not founded on Peter. Incidentally, there is no evidence whatever that Peter was ever in Rome. Paul wrote the book of Romans by divine inspiration and gave greeting to many, and Peter is not even mentioned. Twenty-nine people are called by name to whom Paul sends greetings, one whole church and a number of households. And Peter is not even mentioned. Why? He was not in Rome, of course.

In the book of Acts we are told how Paul came to Rome; we learn about those who came to greet him. We learn that he dwelt two whole years in his own hired house and that leading Jews came to meet him there. Peter did not come. Peter is not mentioned. Why? Peter was not in Rome. There is not a single reputable

history in the world that even mentions Peter's being at Rome. The Bible does not mention it. In fact, when his epistles were written, Peter was in the other direction, at Babylon, and sends greetings from Babylon (I Peter 5:13). The idea of Peter's being at Rome is one of the fictions like all the "nails from the true cross," like literally thousands of fake "relics" honored by the fictions, the tradition, the superstitions of the church at Rome.

### III. There Was No Pope, Neither Peter Nor Anybody Else, Among New Testament Christians

You refer to Matthew 16:19 when Christ said to Peter, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

1. The "Keys" Jesus gave Peter did not mean he had power to forgive sins.

That does not mean what you think it means. A great theologian says on this verse:

"Not the keys of the church, but of the kingdom of heaven in the sense of Mt. 13., i.e. the sphere of Christian profession. A key is a badge of power or authority (cf. Isa. 22. 22; Rev. 3. 7). The apostolic history explains and limits this trust, for it was Peter who opened the door of Christian opportunity to Israel on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2. 38-42), and to Gentiles in the house of Cornelius (Acts 10. 34-46). There was no assumption by Peter of any other authority (Acts 15. 7-11). In the council James, not Peter, seems to have presided (Acts 15. 19; cf. Gal. 2. 11-15). Peter claimed no more for himself than to be an apostle by gift (I Pet. 1.1), and an elder by office (I Pet. 5.1).

"The power of binding and loosing was shared (Mt. 18. 18; John 20. 23) by the other disciples. That it did not involve the determination of the eternal destiny of souls is clear from Rev. 1. 18. The keys of death and the place of departed spirits are held by Christ alone" (notes in the Scofield Reference Bible).

Now note Matthew 18:18 and 19:

"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

So not only to Peter, but to the other apostles and even to all Christians is the same promise given. Whatsoever they shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; whatsoever they shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. And He says plainly, "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." It is clear that Jesus is here talking about the power of prayer. The Christian who moves God can move everything that God moves. And if the Spirit of God leads Christians to unite in believing prayer, then they can have whatever they ask. This is exactly what was promised Peter; he could bind on earth things that would be bound in Heaven and loose on earth things that would be loosed in Heaven the same way that other Christians have exactly the same promise. Peter was simply a New Testament Christian. He had all the promises that God gave to the other apostles and all the promises God gave to other Christians. Even you surely would not say that the instruction in Matthew, chapter 18, was for the apostles only. And certainly you would not say it was for Peter only. So the promise about binding and loosing was to all the apostles, and more than that, it was for all Christians who, led by the Spirit of God, could agree to ask of God.

Now see John 20:21-23:

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this,

he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."

Jesus is risen from the dead. He gives His disciples again the Great Commission and says, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." And then He breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." And in connection with the Spirit of God on these Christians, He says, "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."

2. All apostles were equal with Peter.

Again, it is important to notice that this promise was not given to Peter alone, but to all the disciples present. Certainly the other apostles were there besides Thomas, and almost equally certain others were there besides the apostles. In the same chapter Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and others are mentioned in connection with that group who saw Jesus after His resurrection, and the women talked with the men about it. In Acts 1:13 and 14 we are told that the apostles "with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren," that is, the brothers of Jesus, who would include Jude, Simon, James, etc., were together.

So to this group of Christians in John 20 Jesus gave the promise: first, they were to have the Holy Spirit abiding in them. Then they were to go to fulfill the Great Commission.

Now note that Great Commission as it is stated again, in Matthew 28:19 and 20. That Great Commission was given to the apostles and other Christians there. But they were taught that when they got other disciples, they were to have them baptized and then to teach them, the new converts, "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Whatever command Jesus gave in the Great Commission is for every Christian, not only for the apostles and certainly not only for Peter. And that command is to be fulfilled in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in human wisdom.

Now notice verse 23, "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." Actually this verse is written in the Greek so it could be either present or pluperfect in time, that is, "Whose soever sins ye remit, they shall have been remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they shall have been retained." So Dr. J. R. Mantey, professor of Greek, told me. In other words, led by the Holy Spirit a Christian who knows that one has trusted Christ for salvation can say, "Your sins have been remitted," knowing that they have already been remitted as soon as he trusted Christ. And to one who does not trust Christ, a Christian shall say, "Your sins are not remitted, they are retained, they are on you now," knowing that they have not been remitted, because the one did not trust Christ.

In the first place, it is certain that whatever the Lord said to Peter about any authority here. He said to the other apostles also. There was no primacy given Peter in this matter. And it is also equally clear that whatever authority any people had here, it was by the Spirit of God and in accordance with the Word of God, not that they could forgive sins, but they could know that the sins were forgiven one who trusted Christ or they could know that one's sins were not forgiven if he did not trust Christ.

To make it so any man could forgive sins on his own initiative would be utterly foreign to the clear teaching of the Bible elsewhere. That is human tradition which contradicts the plain Word of God and brings upon all who thus add to the Word the plagues and curses that Jesus warned of in Revelation 22:18 and 19.

Obviously, even the most casual reader of the Bible knows that New Testament Christians did not regard Peter as having any special authority. Paul found him wrong in the matter of a certain compromise, and so in Galatians, chapter 2, we find that Paul rebuked Peter openly to his face. Peter

had no authority which Paul respected more than the authority of anyone else.

In the general council which met at Jerusalem in Acts, chapter 15, it seems that James presided and had the final word. Peter gave his word, as was proper, but he did not speak with any authority recognized by anybody present except the authority of good advice and the Holy Spirit's leading, such as James had also and as others had also on the same occasion.

No, there was no such thing as the Roman Catholic Church in Bible times. There was no popery. There was no mass and no sacrifices. There was no confessional, no pretense on the part of anyone that he could forgive sins. There was no priesthood except the priesthood of all believers in that we can pray for others. But there was no official priesthood in the churches. Roman Catholicism has changed elders and preachers into priests, has changed the pulpit into an altar, has changed Mary into "Mother of God, Queen of Heaven," etc., in idolatry.

3. The apostles had no successors; they handed down no authority.

Twelve original disciples of Jesus were called in the Bible "apostles." They were men specially sent and authorized to teach and preach until the Scriptures should be fulfilled. When Judas, by his sin, fell from the apostleship and killed himself, the disciples elected Matthias to be a witness with them of the resurrection of Christ, and the requirement was that he must be one who had been with them all the way from the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist until His resurrection and could give witness of these things (Act 1:22). Later Paul, Barnabas, and James, the brother of Jesus, are called apostles.

But in I Corinthians 12:28 we are told: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." The apostles were set first in the church. They had no successors. Peter did not give his apostolic authority to Mark who worked with him. Paul did not give his apostolic authority to Timothy, his beloved son in the ministry. John did not give his apostolic authority to anybody else. There is a wicked, foolish, unscriptural idea abroad that the "true church" is a matter of "apostolic succession." That idea was invented by the modern Roman Catholic Church. It was unknown in Bible times. And now when the Anglicans claim "apostolic succession in the priesthood," we know that they got it from Rome. They did not get it from the Bible. When our "Church of Christ" friends claim that they have the only true church, we know that that idea of a church was derived from Roman Catholic tradition. It is true that Christ said, "Upon this rock [and He meant Jesus] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). But He did not mean any organization on earth. The churches and congregations of Bible times have all disappeared. That "general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven," the body of Christ, has not disappeared and will not disappear "and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." But to claim that of any organization of men with human officers, is an idea foreign to the Bible and unsubstantiated by history.

The present so-called Roman Catholic Church is not the church at Rome to which Paul wrote his letter. It has none of the works. It does not believe the same doctrines. It does not have the simple local organization, local pastors (or bishops) and deacons. It does not preach the same plan of salvation. It does not have the same spiritual power.

Summing up, Peter had no authority that other apostles did not have, and that authority was never transmitted to anybody. Peter was not a pope, and even if he had been, he could not have handed that authority down to anybody else. All that is a web of human tradition and as of later origin manufactured by men and not after the Bible pattern. There is not a trace of the papacy in the

## How to Trust Christ

(Continued from page 10)

for He hath said, "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). "Come unto me" (Matt. 11:28) is His blessed invitation; let your reply be, "Lord, I come! I come!"

### Will You Today Trust Christ Once for All?

You have read this compiled message from the works of other great men of God. Now, will you yourself turn from sin and once for all trust Jesus Christ to save your soul? Never mind the fact that you are unworthy; that is the kind of people Christ died for. Do not go by your feelings, but go, first, by the plain Word of Jesus Christ in the Bible and by your own heart choice to trust Him and rely upon Him as your own Saviour.

If you will here and now turn to Christ and commit your soul to Him, leaving yourself in His hands and accepting the work which He has already completed in paying for your salvation, please sign the decision form below, copy it in a letter and mail it to the editor at once. In Jesus' name, I beg you, decide, trust Christ, and say so now!

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor  
THE SWORD OF THE LORD  
Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read the message "How to Trust Christ" by three Scotch preachers. I realize that I am a poor lost sinner. I do not have any merit of my own. I do not deserve salvation. But I am tired of sin; I want God to forgive me. So here and now I turn to Christ and trust in Him, rely on Him, depend upon Him to forgive my sins and save my soul as He promised to do. Because Jesus died for me and because He said I should come and promised He would forgive me, I here and now come to Christ in my heart, I trust Him to forgive my sins and save my soul. Beginning today I will set out to live for Christ and will claim Him openly as my Saviour. Please, Dr. Rice, write me a letter of encouragement and counsel about how to live for Christ now that I take Him as my Saviour.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Bible or in the New Testament church, either in organization or doctrine.

(Next week, D.V. we hope to give the rest of this long letter to a Catholic friend who has written us often. The last part of the letter shows that the authority claimed by the Roman Catholic Church is blasphemous and unchristian that they have no such Christian unity as have Bible-believing Christians everywhere. Two wonderful true stories of Catholic men converted are told. Read it next week.)

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